





## Sudan acknowledges support to Ugandan, Eritrean rebels

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has acknowledged that it is supporting rebels fighting to overthrow the governments of Uganda and Eritrea, but said this was only a response to similar policies from its neighbors.

Sudan has long accused Uganda and Eritrea of supporting rebels fighting the Islamist government in Khartoum, and says the two countries, together with Sudanese rebels, invaded southern Sudan last month.

In response, Sudan is supporting rebels opposing Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni — including the Lord's

Resistance Army (LRA) and the Allied Democratic Forces — Sudan Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail told Reuters late on Thursday.

"We support them because he [Museveni] is supporting our opposition," Ismail said in an interview. "Why should we have to hide it? It's a fact." Sudan has been locked in a bitter civil war since 1983, pitting the mainly Muslim, Arabised north against the largely black, Christian and animist south.

John Garang, leader of the main Sudan rebel group, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), is widely seen

as a personal friend and ally of President Museveni. Ismail said both Eritrea and Uganda had been encouraged by the United States to try to topple the Sudan government.

Sudan says a Ugandan brigade of more than 2,000 troops invaded Eastern Equatoria, in southern Sudan, on Sept. 14, with nine battalions of SPLA rebels. They were supported by Eritrean tank crews, Sudanese military spokesman Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Sir Al Khattim told Reuters.

"We managed to control the whole situation and our people are now pushing them back,"

he said. "Now they [Uganda] are preparing another brigade to be involved in the area." Sudan has declared a general mobilisation to counter the rebel offensive in the south.

Ismail gave no details of Sudan's support for the Ugandan and Eritrean rebels. But both countries say Sudan provides bases for the rebel groups.

The LRA has been fighting Museveni's government for the last ten years from bases in northern Uganda and Sudan, while Eritrea has complained of cross-border raids from the Sudan-based Eritrean Islamic Jihad since 1993.



PRO-HAMAS PROTESTORS DEMAND RELATIVES' RELEASE: Uniformed and plain-clothed Palestinian police Friday pull a Palestinian woman off their commander's car as relatives of Hamas activists being held without trial in a Jericho jail demand their release during a protest outside the Palestinian police headquarters. The demonstrators blocked the road and the entrance to the base demanding the prisoners be freed before Palestinian President Yasser Arafat concludes a peace deal with the Israelis (Reuters photo)

## Arab American group hits out at Hollywood blockbuster

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A Hollywood blockbuster set for release next month could provoke hate crimes against Arabs and Muslims, an Arab-American group warned.

Produced by 20th Century Fox, starring Bruce Willis and Denzel Washington, "The Siege" opens Nov. 6 and describes a terrorist campaign of bomb attacks against the United States. Arab Americans are put in internment camps as the U.S. military declares martial law.

In an open letter to Edward Zwick, who produced and directed the film, the president of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), Hala Maksood, said the film "incites hate

which leads to harassment, intimidation, discrimination and even hate crimes against people of Arab descent."

After a private screening of the film, Maksood said Thursday in the letter that the film "is bound to have a negative impact on the millions of Arabs in the U.S."

Fox maintains that the film deals "seriously and sensitively with timely and important themes such as prejudice and persecution, the price of our personal freedoms, and the protection of these freedoms — for all Americans."

Maksood said the film promotes stereotyping and establishes a direct link between Islamic religious practices and terrorism.

## Iran rejects U.N. report on human rights violations

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran blasted on Friday a U.N. report charging that the Islamic Republic continues to significantly violate human rights, especially those of women and religious minorities.

Foreign ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said the report issued Wednesday was "incompatible with realities and current developments" in Iran.

The U.N. Commission on Human Rights report acknowledged that improvements have been made since the 1997 election of moderate President Mohammad Khatami, but said Iran has "still a long way to go to reach a tolerant society."

"Significant violations" of human rights were continuing, it added.

The report said Iran violates the rights of women and religious minorities, such as members of the Baha'i sect, and criticised the slow pace of legal reforms. But Mohammadi

accused the United Nations of exploiting the human rights issue for political ends, adding this goes against the U.N. Charter.

"Political experts believe that... the report contains claims which do not go with current realities in Iran, indicating that there is a kind of political confrontation against human rights," the official IRNA news agency said.

Iran has long maintained that it follows Islamic principles on human rights. Mohammadi said Iran aimed to improve various aspects of human rights on the basis of its "people's religious and cultural beliefs."

On a positive note, the U.N. report welcomed official recognition of the use of torture, and prison reforms. The U.N. report coincided with the release Wednesday of three prominent journalists detained since September, following the closure of their paper by the judiciary.

## Rights group expresses concern over Palestinian-Israeli security pact

AMMAN (J.T.) — Human Rights Watch this week expressed deep concern that the Israeli-Palestinian security accord being negotiated in Wye Mills, Maryland, may encourage Palestinian human rights violations, a statement from the group said.

The New York-based group urged the United States and Israel not to pressure the Palestinian National Authority to expand its security crackdown without all sides making a clear commitment to safeguard human rights.

The provisions of the Israeli-Palestinian security accord reportedly require the PNA to take steps, unilateral-

ly and in coordination with Israel, to destroy "terrorist infrastructures," and to extradite to Israel Palestinians suspected of violent attacks. The accord also includes U.S. participation in designing counter-terrorism strategies and monitoring their implementation.

"The PNA's human rights record is already deplorable," said Hanny Megally, executive director of Human Rights Watch's Middle East and North Africa Division. "The U.S. doesn't condemn these violations now — will the U.S. condemn violations once it is formally part of the process that creates them?"

Human Rights Watch has documented serious human rights violations by the PNA, including arbitrary arrest, detention without charge or trial, torture, and grossly unfair trials. In many cases, these violations have occurred in the aftermath of anti-Israeli violence and reflect in part U.S. and Israeli pressure on the PNA to crack down on militant Palestinian groups.

Human Rights Watch also expressed concern over Israel's demand that the PNA extradite approximately 36 Palestinians that the Israeli government suspects of terrorist activities. Israel's inter-

rogation procedures have been recognised by the United Nations to violate the Convention against Torture and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Convention against Torture specifically prohibits states from extraditing a person to another state where there are substantial grounds for believing he would be in danger of torture.

"If these suspects were in U.S. custody, it would be illegal under international law for the U.S. to extradite them to Israel," Megally said. "The U.S. should not call upon another government to commit human rights violations."

## CAREER CHALLENGE

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### OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

This person should have 5 to 6 years experience as an administrator, and be capable of managing a professional staff. He must be fluent in English and computer literate.

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## Palestinians ready to cooperate with CIA, Rajoub says

By Samar Assad  
The Associated Press

JERICHO — Soaking oo plump red grapes in his desert compound, Jibril Rajoub is the West Bank's top cop, a pivotal figure in the war against Islamist attacks that kept peace from taking root.

Rajoub says he believes the involvement of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) will be helpful in overcoming mistrust that has all but ended Israeli-Palestinian cooperation, in an interview with The Associated Press before Friday's agreement reached by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Under the agreement, CIA overseas operatives would resolve Israeli-Palestinian disputes over the arrest of suspected terrorists, the management of border checkpoints and other security issues.

Israel demanded a major crackdown on militants and their infrastructure as

part of any agreement. But when it comes to what he will do to contain the enemies of peace, Rajoub prefers not to comment and let recent actions speak louder than words.

His agents summoned 20 members of the Iran-backed Islamic Jihad on Wednesday night, told them they were being watched closely and warned them not to carry out attacks during the third anniversary of the assassination of their leader, Fathi Shekaki, an act widely attributed to Israel. They also issued stern warnings to activists of the larger Hamas group that Palestinian security forces would not tolerate any violence.

Rajoub views the conflict with Hamas as a low-intensity guerrilla campaign, one in which his forces summon activist leaders every few weeks and remind them they are being watched.

It doesn't always work, as witnessed earlier in the week when a Hamas member threw two grenades into a crowd of Israelis at a bus station in

Beersheba. After the attack, in which more than 60 Israelis were wounded, Rajoub's Preventive Security agents detained 15 Hamas members.

Swiveling in a black leather chair in his crisply air conditioned office on Thursday, Rajoub said he had zero tolerance for violence, but at the same time, made clear the Palestinians would jealously guard their right to call the shots.

Rejecting Israel's claim that activist groups are heavily armed and flaunt their weapons in public, Rajoub said: "No one carries an unlicensed weapon in our territories. We won't allow this to happen." However, almost everyone in the Palestinian lands who wants a gun already has one.

Israel maintains there is a "revolving door" in which militants are arrested after attacks occur and then let go when the pressure from the United States and Israel fades. It has insisted Palestinians suspected of committing terror attacks be extradited to Israel.

"No Palestinian will be handed to

Israel," declared Rajoub, who personally broke off contact with the Israelis and the CIA to protest what he said was Israel's abduction of two of his prisoners. He withdrew from the negotiations on a new security agreement, while other Palestinian security officials participated in the talks.

"Any Palestinian who commits a violation is processed through the Palestinian judicial system. There needs to be respect for that system," he said.

Israel also claims Palestinians involved in attacks on Israelis have been inducted into the 40,000-member Palestinian police force.

Rajoub dismisses Israel's argument, noting that he was a former guerrilla who spent 17 years in Israeli jails. Members of the security forces, he said, are not longer a threat.

"They pledge and commit to follow the laws and politics of the Palestinian National Authority and not to engage in armed activities either for personal or political gains," he said.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
05:45	Beirut (RJ)
06:00	Aqaba (add) (RJ)
08:15	Geneva, Paris (add) (RJ)
10:15	Aqaba, Paris (RJ)
10:30	Aqaba, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:00	Milan, Rome (RJ)
11:10	Rome, Brussels (RJ)
11:40	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:15	Cairo (RJ)
13:05	London (RJ)
13:45	Madrid (RJ)
20:00	Bombay (RJ)
20:05	Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
20:25	Jeddah (RJ)
21:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
04:45	Lamaca (RJ)

Other Flights	
06:35	Damascus, London (BA)
14:00	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
14:50	Vienna (OS)
18:00	Dubai (EK)
19:00	Beirut (ME)
23:40	Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)
02:10	Belgrade (JU)
03:00	Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW)	
07:00	Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
08:30	Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
20:30	Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

15:10	Cartoon — Animaniacs
15:30	Clowning Around
16:00	Drama — Neighbours
16:30	Doc. — Pear Pressure
17:00	French Programme — "Faut Pas Rever"
18:00	Drama — Wind at My Back
19:00	Le Journal
19:15	French Programme — Lo'uf de Colomb
19:30	News headlines
19:35	Murphy Brown
20:00	Today's Health
20:30	Sirens
21:05	Drama — ABC of Democracy
21:30	Making Master Pieces
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film — "Blood Oath"
23:59	Twisted
00:30	End of T.X.

### PRAYER TIMES

04:24	Fajr
05:41	(Sunrise) Duha
11:20	Dhuhr
14:29	Asr
16:59	Maghreb
18:16	Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church	Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.	4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel.	4624590
Terra Sancta Church Tel.	4622366

### Anglican Church Tel.

4624853/4624811

### St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel.

4771751

### Amman International Church Tel.

5865897

### German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel.

5688404

### The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel.

5811295

### Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel.

4654932

### St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel.

5661757

### Church of the Annunciation Tel.

4637440

### Greek Orthodox Church Tel.

4646138

### Church of Presentation, Sweifeh Tel.

5920146

### The Uniate Catholic Church Tel.

4624757

### The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel.

4614190

### Evangelical Free Church Tel.

4892679

### The Baptist Church Tel.

4628052

### The Armenian Catholic Church Tel.

4771331

### The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.

4775261

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Moderate to relative hot weather

er conditions will prevail with temperatures slightly higher than average and winds easterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be relatively hot, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.  
Amman ..... 15/30  
Aqaba ..... 20/34  
Deserts ..... 12/32  
Jordan Valley ..... 20/35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30 Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 21 per cent, Aqaba 37 per cent. Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas:

Ajloun	26
Jerash	30
Um Qays	30
Madaba	29
Petra	31
Dead Sea	35

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Awad Hawamdeh	5332350
Dr. Tawfiq Qub'ala	4623029
Dr. Ghaffar Zawadeh	4126011

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	4637111
Civil Defence Department	5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	4630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police 192	4621111, 4637777
Fire Brigade	4617101
Blood Bank	4775121
Highway Police	5343402
Traffic Police	4896390
Public Security Dept.	4630321
Hotel Complaints	5605800
Price Complaints	5661176
Water & Sewage Complaints	4897467
Amman Municipality Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	0132
Central Amman Telephone Repairs	4623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs	5661101
Jordan Television	4773111
Radio Jordan	4774111
Water Authority	5680100
J. Electricity Authority	5815615
Electric Power Co.	4636381
RJ Flight Information	44-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	44-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery	5921199
The Islamic, Abdli	5666131/7
Hussein Medical Centre	5856856
Luzmila	4630195
Khalidi Maternity	464281/6
Akileh Maternity	4642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	4642362
Malhas, J. Amman	4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	5607071
Shmeisani Hospital	5669131
Jordan Hospital	5607550
University Hospital	5353444
Al-Muasher Hospital	5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali	5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	4777101/3
Al-Bashir	4775111/26
Arroy, Marka	491611/5
Queen Alia Hospital	5602240/50
Amal Hospital	5674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986731

### FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (44)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained on telephone (44) 52700 or (44) 523250.

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
06:10	Tehran (RJ)



## International groups to grant over \$12.5m for environmental projects — minister

By Ahmad Khatib

AMMAN — Three international bodies will grant several local companies over \$12.5 million in order to fund and support Jordan's efforts to protect the ozone layer, the government announced Thursday.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Tawfiq Kreishan said the Montreal Protocol for the Protection of the Ozone Layer will grant \$10 million to 20 companies to help them implement ozone-friendly production methods.

He added that the protocol's executive committee, in its upcoming meeting in Cairo, will discuss the possibility of funding three other Jordanian ozone-friendly projects.

The minister, who heads the government's Environment Protection Council, said both the World Bank and the World Organisation for Industrial Development (WOID) will include and fund several local projects, worth \$2.5 million, under the international ozone protection campaign.

Meanwhile, Kreishan on Friday began an eight-day official visit to Iran and the United Kingdom to discuss WOID efforts to replace and limit the use of ozone-harmful substances in their national industries as well as cooperation regarding the issue.

He said several Iranian companies worked together with the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company on a \$805,000 project to initiate the production of liquid gas less harmful to the environment than standard products.

In remarks marking International Ozone Day on Aug. 17, Kreishan thanked Jordan's industrial sector for its efforts to make factories ozone-friendly by the year 1999, as stipulated the Montreal Protocol.

The protocol commits all 140 signatories to freeze the production, use, and export of chlorofluorocarbons and to limit the use of methyl bromide, both ozone-unfriendly substances. It also urges them to end all trade of these materials by 1999.

An ozone-friendly project will be launched in the Jordan Valley to combat insects affecting agriculture which, Kreishan said, will help increase production and reduce costs.

A \$12.5 million national system, which will include governmental and non-governmental organisations and several industrial groups, to tackle pollution in Jordan is looking for a funding mechanism to start operating.



Participants Friday wave picture of His Majesty King Hussein with slogans saying 'We miss you, Hussein' at the charity run for cancer victims attended by thousands of people in Amman (Reuters photo)

## Jordanians join international march to help raise awareness on cancer

By Dana Abu Sham

AMMAN — An estimated 30,000 Jordanians took part on Friday in an annual international march to show support for cancer patients all over the world and raise money for cancer treatment, participants said.

Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor and His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the eight-kilometre Terry Fox Run was held here for the second time to raise funds for cancer research. Jordanians joined people from throughout the world in event, which was jointly organised in Jordan by the Canadian embassy in Amman and Al Amal Centre.

Although most of the participants were school-children, teachers, government employees and university professors also took part in the three-hour event, which kicked off at Al Hussein Sports City and passed through Wadi Tal (Gardens) Street before ending at the sports city.

The idea of the march,

held this year under the slogan "Dreams are Made if People Try," started in 1981, when the 18-year-old Terry Fox decided to run across Canada to raise donations for cancer research after losing a leg to bone cancer.

Although this "Marathon of Hope" that Fox started on April 12, 1980 was never completed, his memory is carried on through The Terry Fox International Runs, organised to increase cancer awareness and raise money for cancer research throughout the world.

"Over 30,000 people took part... It shows, if anything, the true dedication to conquer the illness," said Prince Ra'd, chairperson of the Jordan Sport Federation for the Handicapped. "Although it was not successful for him [Fox], he has certainly been of help in raising awareness of the humanitarian deed all over the world."

"We identify with this spirit, as it reflects international humanitarian goodwill," said the Prince, who participated in the march.

"I pray that His Majesty King Hussein will return home completely cured to carry on with his role as a leader."

King Hussein, who left for the Mayo Clinic in the U.S. to undergo treatment for cancer of the lymph glands, suffers from non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

"This is the number that we deal with, but there are many cases of domestic violence that go unreported and that we never hear about," said Hadidi, director of the National Institute of Forensic Medicine.

Hadidi, who was speaking during a lecture on "Domestic Violence," said another "disturbing fact" is the number of women admitted to the unit for examinations whose bodies are brought in the following day for autopsies.

"We see terror and fear in these women's eyes, and that is because they know they might be killed by their families," he told the lecture's participants.

A total of 25 to 30 women are reportedly killed in Jordan each year by their families for perceived "immoral" acts. These "crimes of honour" have raised strong protests

## Regent urges Muslim youth to combat hostility to Islam

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Thursday urged participants in the Eighth International Conference of the World Assembly of Muslim Youth to take the initiative in combating campaigns hostile to the Islamic religion.

Muslims must present the true image of Islam to the world and confront attempts and campaigns that link Islam with violence through a more active role in the international arena, the Regent added.

In remarks to conference, attended by representatives of 70 nations, the Crown Prince said Muslims have to develop a concept to display the image of their civic society.

He added that Muslims have a duty to help end attempts to link Islam with violence and extremism and to begin dealing with frustration in their societies over political and economic situations.

The Regent underlined the need for replacing any hatred that might exist within Islamic society with trust and mutual and political greed with integrity.

The assembly, which opened here last week, dedicated most of its discussions to difficulties facing



HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, confers with a participant at the Eighth International Conference of the World Assembly of Muslim Youth (Photo by Boghos)

Muslim youth around the globe.

Prince Hassan reiterated his suggestion that the Islamic Nation create an international Zakat (alms) fund, noting that "5 per cent of the refugees in the world are Muslims."

Initiatives by Islamic societies in the fields of education and relief and in dispute settlement reaffirm the Islamic countries' ability

to handle their own problems, he added.

The Regent expressed hope that the conference would also promote Islamic culture.

The assembly, which was established in 1973 and has 34 offices around the globe, is an interdependent group that receives financial assistance from Saudi Arabia and patrons in the Gulf region.

The conference concluded here on Friday with the participation of 700 participants from the Arab and Muslim Worlds.

Saudi minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs and president of the conference, Abdullah Ben Abdul Muh-sen Al Turki, sent a message to His Majesty King Hussein and Prince Hassan thanking them for their support to the conference.

## 'Family unit deals with 60 cases of domestic violence per month'

Many suicides among women may be 'honour crimes' — Hadidi

By Rana Hussein

AMMAN — The newly established Family Protection Unit is dealing with around 60 cases each month involving abused children and women, "a high number," chief psychologist Mo'men Hadidi said last week.

"This is the number that we deal with, but there are many cases of domestic violence that go unreported and that we never hear about," said Hadidi, director of the National Institute of Forensic Medicine.

Hadidi, who was speaking during a lecture on "Domestic Violence," said another "disturbing fact" is the number of women admitted to the unit for examinations whose bodies are brought in the following day for autopsies.

"We see terror and fear in these women's eyes, and that is because they know they might be killed by their families," he told the lecture's participants.

A total of 25 to 30 women are reportedly killed in Jordan each year by their families for perceived "immoral" acts. These "crimes of honour" have raised strong protests

from human rights activists and others.

Hadidi added that many reported suicides among women "are in fact crimes of honour."

"We feel that many of the victims were in fact forced or pushed to commit suicide," he said. He added that in many cases, the evidence and circumstances point to a suicide, "but investigative procedures are not sufficient to determine if they are actually suicides or crimes of honour."

"That is why there is a need for strong investigative procedures," he said.

But he added that this form of violence does not mean that Jordanian society is plagued with murders or domestic violence.

"We need to realise that we have crimes and violence like any other society in the world. The most important thing is to learn how to deal with it," Hadidi said.

The government has adopted new measures and methods to combat domestic violence, he said, citing as two examples the Family Protection Unit and the women's shelter for abused women and those whose lives are threat-

ened by their families for "family honour."

"The shelter will also help women who were victims of rape, because from our experience, these women are always perceived by society as the criminals and not the victims," he explained.

Hadidi emphasised that such sensitive issues should be discussed rationally to come up with appropriate actions.

"Most of our problems could be solved peacefully and could be a good example for people to learn from," he said.

Hadidi, who defined three aspects of violence — physical, sexual and emotional — said it occurs due to many factors, such as poverty, unemployment and strict social rules and traditions that still govern women.

"We should... try to fight the backward mentalities that are embedded in the minds of many people in order to live in a society free of violence," he said.

Also at the lecture, which was held by the Young Women's Christian Association, Hadidi exhibited slides of victims of domestic violence and women who were killed in crimes of honour this year.

In her address, Sawwan Ishaq, a legal consultant at the YWCA, echoed Hadidi's remark that the society still controls women, adding that the media is to be blamed as well for the violence and abuse to which women are subjected.

"The media shows the stereotypical portrayal of women, and at the same time tarnishes their image by using them as a marketing tool to sell products or for songs," Ishaq said.

Ishaq also spoke on the role of the YWCA in helping victims of domestic violence, noting a Family Counselling Centre at the Baqaq Refugee Camp established by the association at the beginning of 1997.

The centre, she said, offers legal, social, health and economic counselling services. "We deal with 15 to 20 cases a day at the centre, and we in turn cooperate with neighbouring organisations in the camp and have built bridges of confidence with the inhabitants there," she said.

## what's going on

### PLAY

\* Molière's "George Dandin" at the Royal Culture Centre on Sunday Oct. 25 at 8:00 p.m.

### CONCERT

\* Musical performance by Freddy for Music at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m. (Daily until Oct. 29).

### LECTURE

\* "The Generation of 1898 and the Arab Literature: Convergence Points" (in Arabic) by Dr. Salah Fadl at the University of Jordan, Faculty of Arts, Ahmad Ibn Khalil Al Farahidi Auditorium on Sunday Oct. 25 at 1:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Display of sculptures, album of 12 silk screens, ink drawings, and other art work by artist Mona Saudi at her residence, Abdoun, Mustafa Kamel Street (Telefax 5929700), until Oct. 29.

\* Ceramics by Ra'd and Ahmad Al Delaimi at Hammurabi Arts Gallery, Gardens St. (Tel. 5536098), until Nov. 5.

\* Display of autumn collection at The Jordan Design and Trade Centre, off Wadi Saqra St. until Oct. 31 (Tel. 5699141/2).

\* Exhibition of works by Palestinian artist Kamal Boullata entitled "Homage to Jerusalem" an exhibition of paintings by late Palestinian artist Zulfu Al Sa'di, an exhibition by Palestinian-American photographer Sa'id Nuseibah entitled "The Farthest Mosque" at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Nov. 12 (Tel. 4643251/2).

\* "Calligraphy on Crafts" at the Jordan Craft Centre (Al Aydi), Jabal Amman (Tel. 4644555), until October 31.

\* Works by Lamia Jamal at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until Oct. 26.

## First Czech film week opens Monday

By Munther Murjan

AMMAN — The Czech Republic is holding its first film week in Amman as part of a new cultural exchange programme with Jordan.

The film week will be held at the Royal Culture Centre from Monday, Oct. 26 through Friday, Oct. 30. A total of four films will be shown at the main hall at 8:00 p.m. each night except Friday (5:00 p.m.). Admission is free.

"The film week is the first such Czech cultural activity in the Kingdom," said Czech Ambassador Tomas Smetanka. "We have held other kinds of activities, but the film week is a first, and we hope there will be more."

Smetanka added that the aim of the films is "to give Jordanian citizens an idea of life in the Czech Republic and show them how Czechs see the world through cinema." The movies will also illustrate Czech life under communism, Smetanka told the

Jordan Times.

Mooday's film, which will be repeated on Wednesday, is "Kolya," the 1997 Oscar and Golden Globe winner as best foreign film. Produced in 1996, this film, set in the late 1980s, depicts the relationship between a man and a child placed in his custody through an arrangement meant to soften his hard living conditions.

Tuesday's film, "The Wonderful Years That Sucked," describes "the life of a young writer from pre-birth through adolescence and adulthood," Smetanka said.

"Buttons," which will be shown on Thursday, is a black comedy about coincidence and random connections in life. "It is a film about six stories that are intertwined with one another in a bizarre way. It is about life and its hidden ties that bind everything together," said the ambassador.

The fourth film, to be shown on Friday, is intend-

ed for Czech nationals residing in Jordan. "Unlike the other three films, 'Obecná škola' will not be shown with English subtitles," said Smetanka.

"The film week is not the only Czech cultural activity planned this year here in Jordan. Last August, a Czech folklore troupe performed at the Jerash Festival, in addition to Prague Philharmonic Orchestra. We are also preparing for a joint exhibition of children's artwork to be shown in the Czech Republic, Jordan and other countries hopefully," he added.

Czech film-making has moved into the international spotlight over the past couple of decades due to the work of Milos Forman, Jiri Menzel, "Kolya" director Jan Svěrák and other directors whose films have been shown in theatres all over the world.

Each year, the Czech Republic produces approximately 30 feature films and 1,200 documentaries and cartoons.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Egyptian FM arrives today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa arrives in Amman today on a two-day official visit to hold talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh and Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Khach, a press report said yesterday. Musa's talks will touch upon the latest developments in the Middle East region, particularly the Wye Plantation summit between the Palestinians and the Israelis and the Jordanian role in the summit, the Arabic daily Al Dustour said. Also on the agenda will be the outcome of Jordanian-Egyptian efforts to end the crisis between Syria and Turkey.

### Jordan welcomes Turkey-Syria accord

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has welcomed an agreement between Turkey and Syria to end the crisis over the presence of Kurdish rebels in Syria and expressed appreciation of Egypt's role in solving the matter. Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Khanib was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that since the beginning of the crisis, Jordan urged the two sides to enter into a dialogue to end the crisis peacefully and avoid any moves that could lead to a military confrontation. Khanib expressed hope that the agreement signed on Tuesday by officials from the two countries would open a new chapter in Turkish-Syrian relations based on a commitment to the principle of "good neighbours" and safeguarding common interests.

### Business workshop opens today

AMMAN (Petra) — A specialised international team today will hold a workshop for small businesses at Amra Hotel. The workshop will review the work of three local small businesses run by Jordanian organisations. The meeting is held in conjunction with the United Nations Development Programme.



## Britain seeks escape route over Pinochet

LONDON (AFP) — Britain appeared Friday to be seeking a way out of the crisis over the arrest of former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, with hints that he may be released on compassionate grounds.

Most newspapers here underlined a "steer" from Prime Minister Tony Blair's official spokesman at a briefing that London could overrule a Spanish request for his extradition. He highlighted a written parliamentary answer by Home Secretary Jack Straw confirming Straw had wide powers to block extradition.

That could include "compassionate circumstances."

Pinochet, 82, was arrested at a private London clinic a week ago after a request by Spanish judges investigating claims of genocide and other crimes committed under his dictatorship.

Tony Blair's government has so far said the matter is a purely legal issue in which it could not intervene politically.

But the apparent softening was interpreted here as an attempt to ease its way out of the diplomatic minefield it finds itself in.

Pinochet's wife Lucia Hiriart and a Chilean parliamentary delegation that

went to the hospital earlier this week said his health was deteriorating.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, urged the government Thursday to "pay attention to the personal aspects of this and to be compassionate in this situation."

"Blair seeks escape route on Pinochet," wrote the Daily Telegraph. "Straw may release Pinochet," headlined The Independent. "Straw signals Chile deal," reported The Guardian.

"Yesterday, it became clear that ministers haven't a clue what to do," wrote the conservative Telegraph, which had previously demanded Pinochet's return to Chile.

Lawyers representing Pinochet launched a legal challenge Thursday against his arrest and detention.

In a brief hearing at the High Court, they said his arrest was "unlawful" and he should be released from custody. They also want to have the original arrest warrant overturned.

Clive Nicholls, acting for the ailing former strongman, said he remained under medication and was not fit, for the moment, to appear in court.

London's problem is that it is assailed on one side by human rights groups



Hebe de Bonafini (right), president of the Argentine human rights group Mothers of Plaza de Mayo, and her group's vice-president Mercedes Meroño display a communiqué as they leave Madrid's High Court after handing in documents to judge Baltasar Garzón. Bonafini was expressing her group's support for the detention of former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, who was arrested in London last Saturday at the request of Garzón, a Spanish judge investigating atrocities committed during Latin America's 'dirty wars' of the 1970s and 1980s (Reuters photo)

demanding prosecution even if the extradition attempt fails, and on the other by accusations it violated his diplomatic immunity and is damaging relations with Chile.

Blair's government also faces suggestions by Chile that Pinochet's arrest has endangered its democratic process since he surrendered power in 1990.

More than 3,000 people were executed or disappeared during his 1973-

1990 dictatorship. A court document sent to Britain by the Spanish judges details alleged genocide, torture and terrorism against 94 people.

But the restoration of civilian rule was built on a principle of immunity in Chile against prosecution, and his arrest now has reopened old wounds.

It was a point made by former British Premier Margaret Thatcher, who wrote to The Times

demanding his immediate release and saying Britain had no right to interfere in Chile's internal affairs.

She also pointed out that he had been a friend to Britain during the 1982 Falklands war against Argentina, comparing his treatment to that reserved for Argentine President Carlos Menem who visits here next week.

Judicial sources in Madrid have said a formal extradition request would

be made in the first week of November. The deadline for the request is Nov. 25 — ironically, Pinochet's 83rd birthday.

After a formal request is made, Straw studies the details of the alleged offences "and any compassionate circumstances," and then decides whether to allow it to proceed.

It would then go through the English courts before returning to him for a final approval.

## Schroeder might reconsider coalition accord with Greens

BONN (AFP) — Incoming German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder is not opposed to reconsidering certain agreements made with the Greens if needed in order to form a coalition government, the daily Bild reported Friday.

"If certain rules (agreed upon) should turn out to harbour injustices, we will change them when the time comes to incorporate them into law," Schröder said in an interview with the paper.

"In the governmental accord, we included a clause on financing: anything that costs money must be counter-financed," Schröder told the paper.

He added that the unemployed should "contribute" to the effort to reduce the unemployment rate by low-

ering their standards and being less picky during the job hunt.

"Solidarity is not a one-way street," he said. "Whoever benefits from state aid like unemployment or welfare benefits should also do something: he not only has the right to work, it is his duty to work."

"If he is offered a job and refuses it, he should accept that the state will reduce his benefits," Schröder said.

Schröder's comments came as the Greens opened a party congress in Bonn where delegates were expected to approve the coalition agreement with the Social Democrats (SPD).

The interview confirmed comments Schröder made to the press Tuesday that

there would "certainly" be changes in the 50-page document titled "Departure and Renewal — Germany's Way into the 21st century."

The agreement puts fighting unemployment at the top of the new administration's priorities and tones down the radical proposals of the Greens.

The future foreign minister, Green party politician Ludger Volmer, criticised the accord for not being Green enough.

"We would have hoped for a much more courageous fiscal reform, as much as with income tax as with the ecology tax," Volmer told German radio.

"We also imagined improvements concerning the status of applicants for asylum and refugees," he added.

## EU diplomats see headway on China human rights

BEIJING (R) — European Union diplomats who held human rights discussions this week in Beijing said Friday that China was making genuine efforts to end abuses in its criminal justice system.

"There are people who are actively interested in improving their criminal law with, essentially, a human rights perspective," said one diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Separately, however, a Hong Kong-based human rights group said veteran dissident Chen Zengxiang had been jailed for seven years for "leaking state secrets."

Chen, a veteran of the 1978-79 Democracy Wall movement, had been denied a lawyer in a secret trial following his arrest on March 23, said the Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China.

The EU diplomats and academics said they had engaged Chinese officials on issues ranging from the death penalty to freedom of speech during a two-day symposium on human rights. The diplomats said they detected a variety of opin-

ions and sensed a sincerity about rectifying abuses that contrasted with a combative tone in official media coverage of China's human rights dialogue with the West.

China's state-controlled newspapers this week mixed shrill denunciations of international rights critics with defiant assertions that self-serving Communist Party definitions of human rights and democracy would constitute the terms of debate.

"It is not that China's stance or policies on the issue of human rights have changed, as some international observers have suggested," said the China Daily in an editorial.

"It is rather that the belated favourable turn in the international atmosphere has created an opportunity for China to elaborate its perspectives," the newspaper said.

Among the views China's media elaborated were that human rights differed between Eastern and Western societies and that it was the government's business alone to monitor rights.

Diplomats said talks were businesslike but acknowledged progress would be

incremental despite hopes raised by China's signing earlier this month of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

"You're not really going to be able to say you came here for a dialogue yesterday, and 100 fewer people were tortured in police stations today. It doesn't work like that," said the diplomat.

The dialogue represented a new approach to human rights policy by China, which not long ago angrily rejected human rights criticism as interference in its internal affairs, he said.

Europe, for its part, had dropped a strategy of seeking censure of China at international human rights forums in favour of quiet diplomacy.

"There is a process of opening up, and we should take advantage of that opening up," the diplomat said.

Diplomats said China had narrowed the range of crimes punishable by death and showed signs of reforming a muddled appeals process which sends many condemned criminals straight to execution grounds without proper avenues of appeal.

## Indian government says education protests politically motivated

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's ruling Hindu nationalist body, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP, World Hindu Council), urged the government Friday to introduce the teaching of Hindu religious laws and heritage in schools.

"I think the protests were unfounded and I do not see any logic behind it," Human Resource Development Minister Murali Manohar Joshi told reporters.

"Part of it is misunderstanding and there is some politics behind this," Joshi said.

The government was forced Thursday to drop proposals to "Indianise, nationalise and spiritualise" the school curriculum, after state ministers protested their inclusion in the agenda of a national education conference here.

The proposals also recommended that the teaching of India's ancient language, Sanskrit and Hindu philosophy, be made compulsory.

The row was especially embarrassing for the nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) as several key supporters of its coalition government joined in the protests.

Unfazed by the uproar, a powerful Hindu revivalist body, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP, World Hindu Council), urged the government Friday to introduce the teaching of Hindu religious laws and heritage in schools.

VHP working president Ashok Singhal said the state ministers' boycott was "the greatest insult to Hindus in their own country" and betrayed the "worst form of communalism."

He said the present education system had been introduced by the British "to prepare people to serve foreign rulers" and "things needed to be changed since India is now an independent country."

The VHP, closely linked to the ruling Hindu nationalists, is bitterly anti-Muslim and anti-Christian and seeks to make India a theocratic, Hindu state. Hindus make up the overwhelming majority in India.

The Indian media blasted the government Friday over the horns nest stirred up by the agenda proposals.

They "compromise the very existence of India as a democratic, non-sectarian state," the Indian Express

said, adding that the BJP's education experts seemed "intent on transporting the country back to the 19th century."

In an editorial entitled "A Total Disaster," The Pioneer rapped Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, who had tried to defuse the protests by stressing there was no place for religious bigotry in Indian education.

Vajpayee's remarks, while welcome, were "not enough to remove the serious misgivings which have been aroused," The Pioneer said.

The Times of India, meanwhile, said the uproar should not be allowed to drown out the real point of the conference — to improve education in a country where nearly 50 per cent of the 975 million population is illiterate.

Minister Joshi said "there was a general consensus" at the end of the two-day conference that universal primary education would "have to be taken up on a mission mode."

A panel to be chaired by Joshi and education ministers of eight other states would develop the structure and outlines of this mission, he said.

## Thriller writer Ambler dies in London

LONDON (R) — Veteran British thriller writer Eric Ambler has died at his home in London after a long illness, his agent said Friday.

Ambler, who was 89, revolutionised the art of the spy novel with a style that set a new standard for a generation of writers including Len Deighton and John Le Carré.

He was also a prolific and highly esteemed screenwriter, who first carved his career with British propaganda films during World War II.

"He was very gentle, very witty," said John McLaughlin, Ambler's agent for 23 years. Ambler was born on June 28, 1909, in London after his

actor parents moved there from Salford, north-west England.

He won a scholarship to London University where he gained a degree in engineering. His first novel, "The Dark Frontier," published in 1936, started out as a spoof on the then-popular spy fiction of John Buchan, William Le Queux and "Sapper."

It ended up predicting the invention of the atomic bomb and its use as a terrorist weapon.

His third novel, "Epitaph for a Spy", whose hero, a simple language teacher without a valid passport, was trapped into performing military counterespionage in France, established him as a writer of a

new style of fiction.

Ambler wrote propaganda films for Britain and its allies during the war, working among others with director Carol Reed, and the actor and writer Peter Ustinov.

One of them, "The Way Ahead" starring David Niven, was about how ordinary Britons were recruited for the war effort. It became an enormous success.

After the war he worked in the Ealing film studios in west London before moving to California as a script writer.

He abandoned Hollywood to live in Switzerland as a tax exile but later returned to his native Britain.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### NATO officials to force Milosevic to stick to promises

BRUSSELS (AFP) — NATO ambassadors decided Friday to send senior military officials on a new mission to Belgrade to force Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to stick to his promises, an alliance official said Friday. The mission will be led by NATO's Supreme Allied Commander for Europe General Wesley Clark and the chairman of NATO's military committee, General Klaus Naumann of Germany, the official said requesting not to be named. The two are to arrive Saturday afternoon in the Yugoslav capital of Belgrade and return to Brussels the following morning, he said. They will meet Milosevic and senior military officials and will brief NATO Monday, they said. The mission comes three days before a Tuesday deadline allowing for NATO military action for Milosevic to end his crackdown of ethnic Albanians in the southern Serb province of Kosovo.

### Fighting in Guinea-Bissau drives 500,000 people from homes

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — About half Guinea-Bissau's one million people have fled their homes to avoid fighting between government forces and insurgents that has created a humanitarian crisis, diplomats and aid workers warned Friday. Fighting between a breakaway army faction and government forces supported by troops from neighbouring Senegal resumed Sunday, ending a three-month truce in the former Portuguese colony. World Food Programme spokesman Wadji Othman said Friday that about half a million people had been driven from their homes. The Portuguese Ambassador in Bissau, capital of the West African country, said food stocks were low and the fighting prevented more aid from being moved around the country. "The (humanitarian) situation is very, very serious, and it'll probably get worse," Ambassador Fernando Henriques da Silva said Friday on Portuguese state radio Antena 1. The rebels, mostly army veterans angered by poor pay and conditions, have overrun the second-largest city, Bafata, and the third-largest, Gabu, since the fighting restarted. They now control most of the impoverished country. Henriques da Silva said sporadic automatic weapons and mortar fire could be heard Friday in Bissau where the rebels have held the main army garrison and airport in the western outskirts of the city since the rebellion began June 7.

### Russian scientist denies finding missing remains of tsar's children

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian scientist denied Friday that he had found the missing remains of two of the last tsar's children and said another expedition would search for them next summer. Alexander Avdonin found the remains of Russia's last tsar, Nicholas II, most of his family and their servants in a pit in the central Russian city of Yekaterinburg in 1991. The Bolsheviks dumped their burned remains in the pit after executing the royal family on July 17, 1918. The remains were buried in St. Petersburg this past July, after seven years of genetic testing and debate. The Moskovsky Komsomols newspaper reported earlier this week that Avdonin had recently found two sets of remains that had been missing — those of Alexei, the haemophilic heir to the throne, and one of his sisters, either Maria or Anastasia. Moskovsky Komsomols said researchers had also found four topaz beads of the kind that had been presented each year to Maria on her birthday, and some bones. Avdonin confirmed that the beads had been found, but called the rest of the newspaper report a "provocation" that must be "refuted immediately because this is a subject of international significance," the Interfax news agency reported. Avdonin said the two children's remains had not been found, but that another expedition would take place next summer because so far only one bonfire site had been examined. He said searches are using the latest equipment, including radar, to search to a depth of five metres. Avdonin said searches also found metal buttons, hooks from what he believed to be a woman's corset, a bullet from a handgun, fragments of gold jewellery and bones from a big animal.

### Father gasses self and children after custody dispute in Australia

PERTH, Australia (AP) — A man drove his three young children to a remote field in Western Australia state and gassed them and himself to death after a custody dispute with his wife, police said Friday. The bodies of Ronald Jonker, 32, and his children David, 7, Aaron, 5, and Ashlee, 17 months, were found in his car late Thursday about 90 kilometres north of Perth, the state capital. Jonker was angry with a Family Court decision that awarded his wife principal custody of the children, reducing the amount of time he would be able to spend with them, said Inspector Geoff Maloney. Maloney said police began looking for Jonker Wednesday, after Jonker's estranged wife Elise received letter from him saying good-bye and telling her he was going to take the kids with him. Jonker, a lawn mowing contractor, had arranged to meet his wife at Gin Gin, north of Perth, Wednesday evening. However, police went to the meeting destination instead. Police sighted Jonker's car and chased him for a short distance, giving up because of fears about the children's safety. Maloney Friday defended the decision to stop the car chase. "That was a decision made by that sergeant and I'm certainly not going to be critical of that decision that he made on that evening ... I back his decision to the full," he said. An air force plane then joined the search for the car and spotted the vehicle Thursday evening parked by a country road. Police reached the car about within two hours and found everyone inside dead. "Everybody was found in a sleeping position," Maloney said. A coroner will investigate the deaths, which police are treating as murder-suicide.

### Seven dead, 85 houses set alight in Nigerian clashes

WARRI, Nigeria (R) — At least seven people died and 85 houses were set on fire in renewed ethnic clashes in the Nigerian oil town of Warri Thursday, police sources and residents said Friday. A dusk-to-dawn curfew was declared in the town Thursday night by navy commander Walter Feghabor, the military administrator of the area in Nigeria's Delta State, following intense fighting between Ijaws and Itsekiris. "We have so far counted seven people dead and 85 houses burnt, mainly in the Orugbo area where the fighting started," a police source said. Residents said soldiers had been deployed on the streets and were guarding oil installations such as the refinery and the offices of oil multinationals, including Royal/Dutch Shell, Texaco and Chevron. More than 100 oil company employees were briefly detained Thursday by armed Itsekiri youths who were searching for Ijaws, the residents added. Work came to a halt Friday in the Warri port area, parts of which were occupied by bands of Ijaw and Itsekiri fighters. Scores of people have died since last year in intermittent clashes between the two groups over the relocation of a local council headquarters from an Ijaw area to an Itsekiri settlement. Ijaw militants, who say they want a fairer deal for Nigeria's fourth largest ethnic group, have blocked exports of about a third of the Nigeria's oil output of some two million barrels per day. The action is part of an upsurge of violence in the main oil producing southern Niger Delta, where ethnic minorities allege marginalisation despite the huge oil wealth pumped from their land, accounting for over 90 per cent of Nigeria's export income.



NEWS IN BRIEF  
officials to force...  
to stick to promises  
...  
9 in Guinea-Bissau...  
100 people from home



Protesters on motorcycles flee from approaching riot policemen after staging a rally near the National Mosque in Kuala Lumpur. The riot police fired a water cannon to break up about 200 demonstrators during an anti-government protest before Prime Minister Mahathir Muhammad was due to present the country's 1999 budget (Reuters photo)

## Thousands defy police ban, hold reform rally in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Thousands of anti-government demonstrators braved the threat of arrest Friday to gather at the national mosque for a rally demanding political reforms.

Protesters waved their fists and shouted "Reform!", while passing cars honked in rhythm with the opposition rally cry.

Hundreds hopped on motorcycles, their helmets over their white caps doled for Friday afternoon prayers, and headed towards Parliament, where Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad was unveiling the 1999 budget.

But they never made it. Dozens of riot police moved in and dispersed the crowd with water cannon. Police had warned those who joined the anti-government march could face arrest under the Internal Security Act, which allows indefinite detention without trial.

The demonstrators are supporters of jailed dissident Anwar Ibrahim, ousted as deputy prime minister and finance minister on Sept. 2.

Police have declared illegal all demonstrations in support of Anwar, who is awaiting trial on charges of graft and sexual misconduct. So far, authorities have detained 262 people who have attended anti-government rallies, releasing them on bail pending trial.

City police chief Kantaruddin Ali said that no one had applied for permit to hold Friday's demonstration, as required by law in this Southeast Asian country.

"We charged ... people Wednesday for illegal assembly and will not hesitate to do the same again," Kamaruddin was quoted as saying in Friday editions of The Star.

Meanwhile, 18 non-governmental groups issued a joint statement Friday condemning police of "flagrant abuse of power" by using batons and canes to injure bystanders and onlookers.

"We demand that the police cease all harassment of loyal Malaysians who are increasingly aware of their rights and are committed to non-violent social and political changes," the statement said.

Wednesday, a local court ordered the trial of 127 people who were arrested for participating in a demonstration that demanded Mahathir's resignation.

Since Anwar's arrest last month, tens of thousands of Malaysians have gathered regularly in the capital and other cities to demand justice for the jailed politician.

Anwar, who showed up at his first court appearance bruised and beaten, faces trial Nov. 2 on 10 counts of corruption and illegal homosexual acts. He has condemned the charges as false and politically motivated.

The political scandal and apparent police brutality against Anwar have soured political relations with other nations. The presidents of Indonesia and the Philippines have expressed sympathy with the dissident.

U.S. President Bill Clinton won't meet with Mahathir during the APEC summit because of U.S. concerns over the handling of Anwar, administration sources said Thursday.

The U.S. House International Affairs Committee released a letter Thursday to Clinton from committee Chairman Benjamin Gilman and Rep. Doug Bereuter urging the president to speak "forcefully" about human rights in Malaysia.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi called the comments by the congressmen arrogant.

"They should realise that they are the ones who are being highly offensive towards Malaysia," he said.

## U.N. envoy meets anti-Taliban commander

DUSHANBE (AFP) — The U.N. special envoy for Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, met key anti-Taliban leader commander Ahmad Shah Masood in the Tajikistan capital Friday, an official from the Afghan government-in-exile said.

Masood made a brief visit, his first in Dushanbe with Brahimi since the Taliban seized several key areas from his opposition forces in northern and central Afghanistan last summer, before heading back to Afghanistan.

Masood called on the so-called "six-plus-two" group — Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, Turkmenistan and Pakistan, as well as China and the U.S. — to put more pressure on Pakistan not to meddle in internal Afghan affairs.

He added that Pakistan should not aid the Islamist Taliban, which now claims to hold 80 per cent of the country.

The U.N. envoy, currently on a tour of the region, has already held talks with Taliban's reclusive leader Mulla Mohammad Omar in his southern Afghan base of Kandahar and leaders of the Iranian government in Tehran.

His mission is aimed at defusing tension between Iran and Taliban and to restore peace in Afghanistan.

Before his meeting with Masood he also held talks with Tajikistan's President Emomali Rakhmonov.

After the meeting, the Tajik leader said his country was ready to "help the U.N. to settle the situation in Afghanistan as soon as possible."

He added: "There is no military solution to the Afghan conflict. What is happening in Afghanistan is an internal matter and any interference is intolerable."

Brahimi, who had also visited Uzbekistan before arriving in Dushanbe, is due to travel late Friday to Turkmenistan.

The hardline Islamic militia, despite their summer successes, have so far failed to dislodge Masood from his strongholds.

They suffered successive setbacks this week in their latest bid to capture the whole of Afghanistan, independent sources said.

Masood said the Taliban launched a five-pronged offensive against his positions ahead of a U.N. decision on Afghanistan's seat.

The Taliban administration claims the Afghan seat at the U.N. which it recognises the ousted government of former president Burhanuddin Rabbani.

"They wanted to show that they controlled the entire country so as to obtain the recognition of their regime... they failed," he said.

"We are still the legal government," said Masood, who is a key ally of Rabbani, pointing out that the U.N. had decided to maintain the current status quo.

## Koreas move closer to reaching deal

GENEVA (AFP) — South and North Korea moved closer Friday to agreeing procedures to pave the way for talks on a permanent peace for the Korean peninsula.

Deputy heads of the four parties involved in the Korea peace talks — South Korea, North Korea, the United States and China — met for about five hours before breaking for lunch, and agreed that head delegates would meet later in the afternoon.

"We have had a very constructive discussion today," Kwon Jong-Rak, the deputy head for the South Korean delegation, told reporters after the meeting.

He said there would be no more meetings at deputy level, but instead "move on to the head of the delegation."

"If all works out, (the talks) will move from head of delegation to formal full session," he said.

Kwon said they would report to the head delegates on the results of the morning session, and "they will decide what to do."

North Korea's spokesman and deputy-head Li Gun told reporters a meeting among head delegates would resume in the afternoon. No time was given.

"We are optimistic that we can reach an agreement on the procedural matters this round," an official said earlier.

He said it was possible that the talks, scheduled to finish Sunday, could end sooner.

The talks are aimed at replacing an armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean war with a permanent peace treaty.

Sources said North Korea, which had earlier demanded the issue of U.S. troop withdrawal be top of the agenda, seemed slightly more flexible in this round.

There was also speculation about some progress in separate meetings between Pyongyang and Washington.

North Korea and the United States have been holding unofficial bilateral meetings since the talks began Wednesday.

The two sides reportedly discussed various bilateral issues such as U.S. funding for a 1994 agreement halting North Korea's suspect nuclear programme and underground facilities in the Communist state which are suspected of being used for nuclear development.

A South Korean opposition lawmaker in Seoul said Friday that North Korea was building two so far unknown underground facilities to produce plutonium.

Kim Duk-Ryong of the Grand National Party said one of the two facilities included a reactor and nuclear reprocessing plant, which he said would be fully operational in four-to-six years' time.

"We estimate that the reactor will go on stream in 2002 or 2003, producing enough plutonium to build one nuclear weapon within six-to-12 months," Kim said during a parliamentary audit of the unification ministry.

"North Korea would be able to make sufficient plutonium to make eight to 10 nuclear weapons every year after that," he said.

North Korea's Li earlier told reporters that for there to be any progress in the four-party peace talks, there must be progress in meetings between Pyongyang and Washington.

The United States had warned North Korea on the first day of the talks that it was no use holding these peace talks if there was no progress in them.

The last round in March broke down because of North Korea's insistence that the troops be withdrawn and that a peace agreement be settled between Washington and Pyongyang.

Prospects for progress further weakened after North Korea slammed Washington and Seoul for the joint wargames scheduled to be held next week in South Korea.

## NATO sending new mission to Belgrade as Kosovo clashes continue

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AFP) — NATO said Friday it is sending a new mission to Belgrade to remind Serb authorities of the need to withdraw troops from Kosovo, amid reports of clashes between ethnic Albanian rebels and Serb security forces.

The high-ranking military mission, which will travel to Belgrade on the weekend, comes a few days before the expiry of a deadline set by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for the withdrawal of troops from Kosovo.

NATO officials said that the mission, which will include NATO's Supreme Allied Commander for Europe, U.S. General Wesley Clark, will deliver "a very firm message" to the Yugoslav authorities in Belgrade.

Clark, and the chairman of NATO's military committee, General Klaus Naumann of Germany, will demand "immediate application" of U.N. resolutions calling for a ceasefire in Kosovo, said the official, who requested anonymity.

"This is not a poker game," he said, adding that Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic could not back out of "immediate" compliance on any condition.

Friday's announcement comes amid signs that the uneasy ceasefire that has existed in Kosovo since the beginning of last week is unravelling.

The province saw its first full-scale battle since the conflict when Milosevic, under threat of NATO airstrikes, pledged last week to withdraw troops and end them to parliament for approval.

Zadornov eased his crash fourth-quarter budget through the government on Thursday, and Yeltsin passed it on to parliament Friday morning, the Kremlin said.

The budget amounts to the first set of concrete measures issued by Yeltsin's six-week-old government to face up to the withering impact of a prolonged financial crisis.

The finance bill provides for a deficit of 60 billion rubles, to be financed partly by printing money, and includes a raft of new tax proposals including an increase in excise duty, a hike in pension contributions, and imposing new duties on some exports.

The economic crisis has raised fears that Russians might go hungry this winter, adding extra resonance to Yeltsin's Vienna trip. The summit agenda is set to be dominated by the possibility of Russia receiving a reported \$1.5 billion in EU food and humanitarian aid shipments that would help the country prepare for and survive the winter.

Imports have collapsed in line with the ruble, which firmed slightly to 16.69 to the dollar Friday. To compensate, the government slashed import duties on a range of products Friday.

lance of Kosovo to verify the troop withdrawal.

Sources on both sides said the meetings with Milosevic have been strained, as he keeps demanding that NATO lift the "activation order" that allows for military strikes against Serbian targets.

While NATO says Milosevic has pulled out some of his forces from Kosovo, far too many still remain in the strife-torn region.

Also Friday, the head of the international verification mission for Kosovo was expected in Pristina, the regional capital.

U.S. diplomat William Walker will be making his first visit to the tense province where the recent skirmishes between ethnic Albanian rebels and Serb security forces have further complicated the situation there.

Walker arrived in Belgrade Thursday and met with Yugoslav Foreign Minister Zivadin Jovanovic, a spokesman for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said.

OSCE spokesman in Pristina, Mans Nyberg, said Walker was due to meet Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic Friday before travelling south to Kosovo where he will meet local Serb officials and ethnic Albanian leaders.

The OSCE has been given the task of verifying the withdrawal of Serb forces from Kosovo.

Some 2,000 international observers are to be drafted into the region while NATO surveillance aircraft will provide additional intelligence from the air.

## Britain's first clinic for freezing human eggs

LONDON (AFP) — A London clinic has received the first British licence to freeze eggs of women who want to defer motherhood, but safety fears as yet prevent later fertilisation, press reports said Friday.

But the decision by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), which licenses fertilisation clinics, to grant a licence to the Assisted Reproduction and Gynaecology Centre has stirred the debate about how far science should interfere with nature.

HFEA head, Suzanne McCarthy defended the decision in the Daily Mail.

"We are not saying that women can pick and choose the egg they want, say for genetic reasons, just that they can keep them in storage so that they have the right egg for the right sperm at the right time," she said.

As yet, the clinic only has permission to extract and freeze the eggs. It cannot later thaw and fertilise them for safety reasons. Clinics are already allowed to freeze sperm and embryos.

Women facing cancer treatment, which could leave them sterile, could benefit from the programme, suggested the director of the clinic, Mohammad Taranissi in the newspaper.

"Now it is possible to take their eggs before they start treatment and freeze them so they can be fertilised later," he said.

Women who prefer to put off motherhood until later in their careers could also opt to freeze their eggs and not run the risk of being unable to conceive past their fertile prime.

Pro-life groups have been quick to question the ethics of the practice.

"We keep on pushing, pushing at the boundaries and we have no idea where we're heading," said Nuala Scarisbrick from the anti-abortion movement Life.

"In the middle of all that, there are children asking, who am I? who made me?" she protested.

McCarthy, in comments to The Independent newspaper, rejected the ethics argument. "This is not about creating designer babies. The only question about the ethics relates to the welfare of the child," she said.

id 55 houses set alight  
vigerian clashes

## Tired-looking Yeltsin says Russia on road to recovery

MOSCOW (AFP) — Looking tired and puffy, President Boris Yeltsin ventured Friday that Russia's sickly economy was on the road to recovery, even as Kremlin aides played down fears about the Russian leader's own fragile health.

In the longest footage seen on television of Yeltsin for weeks, the Kremlin chief talked up the dire economic situation, saying that two months after the ruble collapsed the worst might be over for the ailing economy.

"The situation is still very difficult but now we are starting slowly to creep out," Yeltsin said, miming a creeping action clumsily with his right hand in footage broadcast on Russian television.

The Kremlin meanwhile was trying to talk up Yeltsin's own health after another worrying two weeks in which the Russian leader has struggled to shake off his chronic illness, cancelled one foreign trip, shortened another and kept Kremlin appearances to a minimum.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Yakushkin played down the decision to scale back to just a few hours Yeltsin's trip next week to a vital EU-Russia summit in Vienna, saying merely that the agenda had been condensed.

"It is quite simply that one day is more than sufficient for the program planned for this visit," the spokesman said, adding that Yeltsin's agenda there would be "quite busy."

With Yeltsin adopting an increasingly low profile domestically in between stumbling performances abroad, the Kremlin has repeatedly been forced to deny rumours about his health. After an ill-fated and ultimately aborted trip to Central Asia two weeks ago, Kremlin aides blamed bronchitis and said Yeltsin would not travel to Kuala Lumpur next month for an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.

Although the Kremlin chief underwent a check-up and X-rays earlier this week, aides insist that apart from his chest condition, he is in sound health.

But at 67, the Russian president is already 10 years older than the average mortality rate for Russian men, and a long string of heart and lung problems have raised doubts over his fitness to serve out his term until 2000. His prolonged absence from the political stage has prompted calls for his resignation. Opponents in parliament want to push through a law obliging the head of state to undergo compulsory medical check-ups.

"In other countries people are also interested in the health of the president," said upper house speaker Yegor Stroyev after meeting with Yeltsin, according to Interfax. "But we should not take it to absurd proportions." Stroyev said, adding that he noticed nothing unusual about Yeltsin's health Friday.

Yeltsin has in particular taken a back seat on the economy ever since he vowed that Russia would not devalue the ruble just three days before it did just that.

But he did insist that Finance Minister Mikhail Zadornov run all his spending and revenue plans past the Kremlin before sending them to parliament for approval.

Zadornov eased his crash fourth-quarter budget through the government on Thursday, and Yeltsin passed it on to parliament Friday morning, the Kremlin said.

The budget amounts to the first set of concrete measures issued by Yeltsin's six-week-old government to face up to the withering impact of a prolonged financial crisis.

The finance bill provides for a deficit of 60 billion rubles, to be financed partly by printing money, and includes a raft of new tax proposals including an increase in excise duty, a



## Jordan Times

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## Time will tell

**HALLELUJAH.** The Palestinians and the Israelis, aided by the Americans, have reached another agreement after nine days of hard bargaining, arm twisting and blackmailing at Wye Plantation. While we do not doubt the goodwill of all women and men involved in the talks, at least one man, His Majesty King Hussein, went directly to the point. He told the Israeli and Palestinian leaders that they must make peace "for your children and your children's children."

There is no doubt in the minds of most people that President Bill Clinton, Chairman Yasser Arafat and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were thinking of everything else except their children's children. Clinton had to pull out his October surprise — before the end of the month — to get Republicans off his back and boost his party's chances in the congressional elections. Netanyahu, who was still last night trying to use the agreement to blackmail the Americans into releasing spy Jonathan Pollard and who demanded during the talks that Arafat intervene with his "boss," Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, to win the release of another alleged spy, Azzam Azzam, had his right-wing coalition in mind and the possibility of winning a snap election. Arafat had Hamas, Jihad, the PNC, the PCC, Palestinians inside Palestine and those outside of it all in mind. He had the future of his people and their future state in mind as well. Each of the three leaders had his own enemies at home to think of while committing himself to whatever the agreement prescribes: Clinton the so-called right-wing conspirators, Netanyahu the ultra-rightists and religious extremists, and Arafat Hamas and Jihad.

Agreements notwithstanding, the extremists in both the Israeli and Palestinian camps will continue to have their say, and the louder they say it, or the bloodier, the more they will affect the agreement's implementation, or the lack of it.

While Netanyahu can go back to the Israeli electorate with the hope of winning the pro-peace centre and a new mandate, Arafat goes back to a population that is increasingly becoming frustrated by the absence of any promise that their lot will ever improve or their much-awaited state will ever materialise.

Yet a glimmer of hope remains. If Arafat, without turning into another Antoine Lahd as he fears or as his opponents might accuse him of becoming, and like-minded Palestinians see the agreement as what it is, wrenching more land from the Israelis, and with help from the CIA if he acts to restrain the hard-liners, then he would stand by his side of the deal, thereby leaving no excuse for Netanyahu to fail to deliver on his part of the bargain.

How good the deal is then and how effective it will be depends on the ability of the two sides to implement it, but also on how acceptable it is to average Palestinians and Israelis. That will be tested in the few months that lie ahead.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Ahmad Missleh commented on the meeting between Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh and different parties of society. The writer praised the prime minister for being modest. The prime minister has said how much he and his Cabinet learn from these meetings, said Missleh, and by saying this the prime minister established his point about the principle of dialogue. Tarawneh, according to Missleh, rejected the idea of owning the truth. The government should seek the truth from society, he said, thus breaking the mantra, "do not think, the government thinks for you." The prime minister also stressed the importance of relations with the Palestinians, saying that Jordan will always support the Palestinians, even though Jordan has certain obligations to Israel.

Al Dustour's editorial expressed hope that the participation of His Majesty King Hussein in the talks between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Israel will lead to a breakthrough. The United States found itself in a trouble due to ill-feeling between the PNA and Israel. The Arab daily said that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's threat to pack up and go home prompted Clinton to repeat the invitation to the King to save the talks from possible collapse. The paper said that the United States as well as Israel and the PNA trust the King who commands respect from all sides. If a deal is brokered, there will be a rebirth to the stalled talks between the Palestinians and the Israelis, said the paper.

## Jordanian Perspective

## In the kitchen, either cook or get out

Dr. Musa Keilani

ACCORDING TO a noted Israeli sociologist, outright support for Israel is declining in the United States and fewer American Jews now believe Israel is very important to them. It is not exactly very surprising. Over the years, the pattern of Israeli behaviour has lent itself towards being dependent not only on the American political, military and financial establishment but also on the values on which the United States of America was founded.

The very way Israel is flouting the principles of self-determination and the non-admissibility of the use of military force to achieve political and territorial gains is an open challenge to the beliefs that are deemed so dear to the American nation.

True, in the 70s and 80s the number of average Americans actually realising that their country's "strategic alliance" with Israel is a liability was few, but the awareness has been growing since then, particularly with Arab diplomacy making waves, albeit nowhere near the desired level.

However, the finding that "Jewish identity and attachment to Israel are declining" — as reported by the Jerusalem Post quoting Steven M. Cohen, a Hebrew University sociologist — should be alarming to Israelis because it reflects an erosion, however slight, of the very foundation of U.S.-Israeli relations. By the same token, it is an indication to the direction that Arab efforts should take on the American public scene.

According to a study conducted by Cohen, slightly over half of the target audience agreed that "Israel is critical to sustaining American Jewish life" and only one-third said Israel is extremely important to their sense of being Jewish.

Only 20 per cent think it is essential to support Israel, the study found.

Quite accurately, Cohen says the reasons have to do with the trend among American Jews to turn less ethnic, alienation over Israeli religious policies and "who is a Jew," and more importantly for us in the Arab World, what he describes as confusion about the peace process.

Equally important is Cohen's assertion that while "it is not that people are turning against Israel, but they are moving to a more neutral position in their consciousness." Precisely that is the point that the Arab World has been trying to impress upon the American public but with a very slow pace of success. If a majority of Americans, regardless of their ethnic and religious origins, took a closer, neutral look they would realise that the U.S. relationship with Israel has done serious damage to their country's international image and credibility.

A good part of the billions of dollars in American money that has been channelled to the State of Israel, through official as well as unofficial means, is indeed American taxpayers' money (In many states of the U.S., "Your tax money at work" billboards adorn road construction sites and other public projects. One can spend hours drawing easily imaginable billboards in relation to the money that Israel receives from the U.S.).

If that is not enough, then there is the very moral high ground Israel continues to assume for itself despite its record of abusing U.S. support and assistance in the form of spying and intelligence gathering within the U.S.

Well, the Israelis might pat themselves on the back for their skill in getting the optimum and more out of the situation while still continuing to enjoy the almost unlimited political, military, financial and moral support of the United States.

What is indeed deplorable is the way in which an average American allows himself/herself to be manipulated, through

skillful use of the media — which are controlled by pro-Israeli interests — into continuing to believe that it is in line with American beliefs and principles that Washington continues to extend such support for Israel.

The inevitable questions here are: What would it take to raise American public awareness of the true situation in the Arab-Israeli conflict? That the true aggressor who continues to reject outright any legitimate solution to the conflict is Israel? That there is little truth in the perception that the Arab World is poised to jump and crush the tiny State of Israel into oblivion at the first given opportunity? That the Arabs made that strategic decision to make peace with Israel when they went to Madrid seven years ago? That the Arabs are more than willing to accept international legitimacy — represented by United Nations resolutions — as the basis for a just, durable and comprehensive solution to the conflict with Israel? The Arab World has been trying for long to portray the truth in the situation and has also spent fortunes in that effort. But it has reaped very little in return, perhaps because of the lack of a central sense of purpose in that effort brought about by the conflicting and varying interests of the members of what we would like to call the Arab family.

The finding that Israel is slowly losing its root support among American Jews points to an opportunity that warrants a renewed Arab endeavour at educating the American public of the realities on the ground in the Middle East.

The central message of that endeavour should be simple and straight: If the U.S. cannot help the Arabs achieve a just and legitimate solution to the conflict with Israel, then it should also stay out and leave the Arabs and the rest of the international community to deal with the arrogance and intransigence of Netanyahu.

## Out of Order

## The land of the free...

Brian Brown

IMAGINE IF you will a country whose police force brutalises peaceful demonstrators, trade unionists and other people on a regular basis with little, if any, accountability under the law; one that subjects its citizens (and those of other countries) to arbitrary justice, often without adequate legal representation or proof of guilt and in defiance of international human rights treaties; a state that subjects prisoners and even asylum seekers to inhumane treatment in "correctional facilities," including electric shocks, shackles and violence on the part of other prisoners.

No, this country isn't El Salvador, Syria or one taken from the pages of "1984," but the United States of America, as documented by Amnesty International in a new report, "Rights for All." According to the frontpiece of the 153-page booklet, the report was issued this month, but the general reader could be forgiven for not knowing this fact, thanks to scant media attention. In the report's nine chapters, Amnesty documents a number of gross human rights violations concerning the police, the prison system, asylum-seekers, the death penalty, and the U.S. role in undermining international rights treaties and supplying arms to brutal regimes around the world for the suppression of their own populations.

Amnesty also notes the seeming contradiction in the U.S. stated support for human rights on the one hand and its practice of abuse within its own borders, not to mention the rest of the world, on the other. The recent cruise missile attack on the pharmaceutical factory in Sudan is simply the latest in a long line of blatant violations of international treaties in the Middle East alone. It is indeed puzzling that the U.S., the so-called champion of human rights and the

rule of the law, repeatedly violates the very standards which it claims to uphold.

But even stranger than the extensive rights violations committed by the U.S. at home and the world at large is the general ignorance of the American public on the issue. How can a populace that is generally well-educated not know, or care, what is being done in their name by the American government?

Everyone knows some aspects of what goes on inside American prisons — violence, extortion and rape — but not lesser known details such as legalised torture that elicit outcry when practised in some countries, such as Iran, China and the former Soviet Union (but in another odd twist, not in Israel). Going a little farther from home, good luck in finding the five or six Americans who have heard of the USS Liberty incident in 1967, U.S. support for Central American military dictatorships in the war against civil, democratically elected Sandinista regime in Nicaragua, or the utilisation of former Nazi intelligence officers to undermine leftist organisations in Europe following WWII.

One reason for this lack of understanding of world events is the way they are portrayed in the U.S. media. Certain seemingly harmless countries or groups, such as Chile under Salvador Allende, whose brand of "communism" included such social welfare programmes as free milk to school students, are "exposed" as vicious and depraved tyrants. Other events, for one reason or another, do not merit enough attention to reach the public's attention. One example is the continuous harassment, including long-term jailings, by the San Francisco police of members of Food Not Bombs, a group that collects and distributes

free food to homeless people. A reader would be hard-pressed to find almost any coverage of why this humanitarian group is under such pressure to stop its activities.

Another, perhaps more powerful, reason for the tacit acceptance of human rights violations in the U.S. may be the pervasive ethnic and ideological discriminations still present in American society. These are often taken advantage of to create conditions that allow for such abuses. This is why African-Americans are the leading ethnic group in the U.S. subject to the death penalty, why new discriminatory legislation, such as the regulation mandating increased scrutiny to airline passengers of "Arab" appearance, is increasingly common, and why there are still people who, disregarding the U.S. nearly 40-year-old embargo on the country, believe Fidel Castro single-handedly destroyed Cuba.

The Amnesty International report on the U.S. is invaluable for anyone interested in human rights. The report contains much that many people and human rights campaigners already know but is probably unknown to most — either way, it constitutes a vital reference document. It is ironic, however, that Americans, the people who stand the most to gain from the report, will probably be the least aware of its existence. **RECOMMENDED READING: Dune, by Frank Herbert. Dune presented a radical view of the power humans can have on the environment, a major popular concern when the novel was published in the 1960s. Set in a distant intergalactic future, the novel tells the story of Paul Atreides, a dual heir who wins back a planet with the aid of a mystically imbued people, the Freemen. A science fiction classic with a message that is becoming increasingly timely.**

## All eyes on Wye

Columnists last week commented on the King's participation in the peace process, the importance of free access of information and Arab unity.

Reviewed by  
 Mohammad Ben Hussein

Al Ra'i's Fahed Faneek commented on the participation of His Majesty King Hussein in the talks between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Israel. The writer claims that the presence of the King serves Jordan, the PNA, Israel and the United States; the U.S. wanted to avoid exerting pressure on the PNA and Israel through the invitation of the King who commands high respect from both parties.

Faneek said the King can interfere and offer his suggestions without obvious pressure on any side, since the King earlier had bridged the gap between the PNA and Israel. According to Faneek, both the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the Palestinian President Yasser Arafat pushed for the King's participation, whose popularity is high both in Israel and the self-rule areas. Netanyahu, says Faneek, needed the interference of the King to maintain good relations with Jordan. Arafat, felt he was able to sell concessions to the Palestinian people, by claiming that he listened to the advice of the King, whose support the Palestinians need, said Faneek, who claimed that the participation of His Majesty also served to dispel rumours about his health, and were anyway necessary because what happens in the peace negotiations will have a direct impact on Jordan.

Al Dustour's Majed Abi Daik charged that if a deal between the Palestinians and Israel is struck it will be a big blow to Arab solidarity recently strengthened after the 17 months stalemate with Israel. Israel is more concerned about its security than any other issue, he said, because it wants to make the PNA serve its interests by fighting any anti-Israeli activities. Moreover, he claimed, Israel demands the PNA destroy the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, something Israel failed to do. The writer said the PNA will not be able to crack down on Hamas, but if it tries, such a war would be dangerous to Palestinian solidarity. Israel also wants to involve the PNA in plans to arrest or assassinate all Palestinian activists declared by Israel as wanted, which, according to Abu

Daik is playing with fire.

Al Ra'i's Tareq Masarwah mocked reports in the Israeli daily newspaper Yedoth Ahronot and the Washington Post that the United States and Israel are concerned about Jordan's political future. He said it only took one day to show that the King is the one qualified person to save talks from a possible failure. Masarwah said the United States wanted only to be the sponsor of talks, because Washington realises that it cannot be a fair judge. The series of fiascos that has hit Bill Clinton have not left him space to pressure Israel, said Masarwah, who further

claimed that the participation of the King shows how concerned Jordan is about Arab issues. Masarwah criticised certain Arab countries for claiming that only they should supervise the Arab question and make important decisions.

Al Ra'i's Fahed Faneek said the economic and social development of any country is not achieved only by investments and industrial projects but also with education, training, and free access to information. Faneek said the government should provide information to everybody in society, both good and bad, because education and knowledge are essential to combat unemployment and poverty. Faneek blamed ignorance for the death of 2 million children in the Third World every year, that happen because mothers do not know that a solution of water mixed with salt and sugar can save their children who suffer from dehydration. Faneek quoted a study conducted by the World Bank on Vietnam which concluded the positive relation between poverty and education. Lack of education means more poverty, said Faneek.

Al Ra'i's Salah Jarrar commented on the Arab dream of unity, and suggested that the Arab League make a special competition for the best comprehensive project for Arab unity, which would be rewarded with a certain prize. The project could be announced as an Arab or international competition said Jarrar, thus participants in the competition could be Arab intellectuals, Arab political parties and even non-Arabs. He suggested that a committee comprising Arab intellectuals would choose the best project. Such a competition should be declared in order to motivate thinkers and intellectuals, he said, and could be held yearly.

## Unwritten agenda

By George S. Hishmeh

THERE MAY have been another unwritten agenda at the Mideast summit held at the picturesque Wye Plantation in the Maryland suburb of Washington. Unlike the famous focus of the declared agenda, an interim agreement to facilitate the much-delayed second Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, this one may have dealt with Israeli-American ties.

Or more precisely, the relationship between the enfeebled American President, Bill Clinton, and the intransigent Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

A full-page advertisement in the Washington Post, published as the summit here was underway, declared that "neither Israel nor the U.S. can afford to let the Middle East peace process fail." The advertisement was sponsored by the Israel Policy Forum (IPF), which describes itself as seeking "to promote Israeli security and U.S. strategic interests by supporting active American diplomatic involvement in the Middle East peace process." It declared that both nations "urgently need peace, which will protect Israeli and American security, help stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction and deter terrorists who have declared war on Israel, the U.S. and the West." It argued for "balanced" U.S. diplomacy "to keep the peace process moving forward" otherwise, its collapse would be "dangerous" to the U.S., Israel and the entire Middle East.

Israel's security or survival was also the theme of a just-published article by Robert Satloff, the prolific executive director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, which at one time had on its staff Martin Indyk, the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs, and U.S. presidential envoy for the peace process, Dennis Ross.

The usually well-informed Satloff writes that "after two years of back-stabbing and finger-pointing," this week's Mideast summit "has the potential for a real breakthrough between America and Israel." After recounting the causes for the "bitterness" between Clinton and Netanyahu, Satloff described the Clinton administration's insistence last May that the peace process could not move forward unless Israel withdrew from 13 per cent of the West Bank as being the "first time since the 1956 war that Washington had ever issued to Israel what amounted to a territorial ultimatum, and as such, was a terrible precedent." In 1956, President Eisenhower ordered the Israelis to pull back from the Suez Canal at the time of the British-French war on Egypt after President Nasser nationalised the famous waterway.

Satloff advocated that the American and Israeli leaders have "an honest conversation" about the final status negotiations because the two "allies disagree on the most basic questions: What is the capital of Israel? Where should Jews be permitted to live in Palestine? What should be the final borders of the Jewish state?" He continued: "These issues are about to burst out of the diplomatic closet and onto the bargaining table. Without a clear sense of how to manage their disagreements, the next phase of the peace process may make the last year's acrimony seem like the good, old days." The executive director of the Washington Institute, who had two other articles on the peace process published this week in the Los Angeles Times and the New Republic, pointed out in his Newsday article, that "with the virtual end of inspections in Iraq and Iran's test of a long-range missile (the) frightening reality" of ballistic missiles directed at "the heart of Israel's existence and maybe America's, too... is not far off." He noted: "Today, no small country — even one with Israel's brains and brawn — has the wherewithal to deter, defend and protect against hundreds of incoming ballistic missiles tipped with nuclear, chemical or biological warheads." He stressed that Israel's survival will depend on "the depth of its partnership with America" and he thought there should "be lots of time at Wye for the president and the prime minister to have a one-on-one, heart-to-heart talk (and to put

aside pettiness, partisan differences and peace process disputes" in order to forge a "strategic understanding" agreement so as "to invigorate an alliance that is up to the challenge." The amazing failure of Israeli Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon and Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to show up at the conference until the third day although security is uppermost on the Israeli agenda may have given Netanyahu the chance to pursue a reconciliation with his American host.

But the results of a national poll, commissioned by the Centre for Policy Analysis on Palestine and published on Thursday, should give the Israeli leadership at Wye second thoughts about what they could expect from their American hosts, especially after their threatened walkout Wednesday night. According to the just-conducted poll, undertaken by the respected Zogby International, a majority of Americans (60.7 per cent) agree that the \$3.2 billion in U.S. aid given to Israel each October should be withheld until progress is made in the peace negotiations. Also, a majority of Americans (53.9 per cent) support the creation of an independent Palestinian state; the support was stronger among younger and college-educated voters.





# Features

## Brezhnev, Callaghan, Carter, Deng Xiaoping, Schmidt, where are they now?

By Timothy Garton Ash

THESE WERE the "world leaders" back in October 1978, when a little-known Polish cardinal stepped out on to St. Peter's Square as the new pope and proclaimed his electrifying message: "Be not afraid!" Twenty years on, those worldly leaders are long since retired or dead, but the "servant of the world, still tirelessly proclaiming the same urgent, universal message to all humankind."

At 78, he is frail and bent. That rugged, athletic figure has been worn down by Parkinson's disease, by the assassin's bullet that tore through his intestines in 1981, and by two decades of ceaseless toil. He used to ski for hours; now he leans on his old ski-sticks for support while taking gentle walks. His voice used to be so powerful and clear, with a skilled actor's delivery that John Gielgud once described it as "perfect." Now it is often shrill, his broad, smiling face used to radiate human warmth for a hundred yards around — a quality he shared with his "fellow Slav" Mikhail Gorbachev. Now the face is half-frozen with Parkinson's. His left hand trembles uncontrollably.

Yet still you glimpse flashes of the old magic, as the distant figure, all in white, draws a whole crowd to him with a characteristic gesture: gently but repeatedly lifting two outstretched open hands. Then he speaks to half a million people as if he were talking to one person. It's the old magic that I saw in communist Poland, where he dissolved the fear instilled by Brezhnev's divisions with one wave of that now trembling hand. And still he goes on admonishing the rulers of this world, whatever their political colour, whether Castro or Clinton. Still he offers succour to the poor, the weak, the sick, the oppressed in every land.

You might think from this opening hymn of praise that I'm a Catholic, even a papal groupie. Far from it. Indeed, if I were a Catholic, I might be much less enthusiastic. His fiercest critics are among his own flock. I leave it to them to argue about his restoration of a "monarchical" papacy and the stifling of debate inside the church. As an agnostic liberal, albeit one rooted in a rich history of Christianity, my concern is not with the church but with the world. And I want to argue that Pope John Paul II is simply the greatest world leader of our times.

I say this not just because of what I saw him do in Poland, although of course that counts. Nor is it simply because I have experienced the force of his personality in a small gathering, although that was

unforgettable. Over these 20 years I have had the chance to talk with several credible candidates for the title of "great man" or "great woman" — Mikhail Gorbachev, Helmut Kohl, Vaclav Havel (who comes to Britain again next week), Lech Walesa, Margaret Thatcher — but none match Karol Wojtyla's unique combination of concentrated strength, intellectual consistency, human warmth and simple goodness. Yet my case rests on his public record. No one has conveyed a better message, more effectively, to more people. What is this message? When he arrived on St. Peter's throne, it was all there, fully formed, ready to go. He immediately wrote it down, in longhand, for his first encyclical, *Redemptio hominis* ("The Saviour of Man"). But there's a problem here. A philosopher, poet and playwright as well as a pastor, he writes in a dense, difficult linguistic blend of Thomism (the philosophy based on the teachings of Thomas Aquinas), phenomenology and Polish Marian mysticism.

One common mistake is to suggest that he looks at the whole world through a Polish prism. Of course he is profoundly Polish. If you ever doubt that, just listen to him speaking directly to the Virgin Mary before the great monastery of Czestochowa, addressing her as "the Queen of Poland." It's also deeply moving, for he really is like a man talking to his mother. His own mother died when he was eight. But when I once had dinner with him, in a circle of Polish friends, speaking Polish, I was struck by the very opposite impression. Here was a man who looked even at Poland through the prism of his global experience, faith and mission.

The other common mistake is to interpret him in conventional political categories. Many at the West see him as just an old, dyed-in-the-wool reactionary. Gorbachev, by contrast, says the Pope is a man of the Left. In fact, he has always been fiercely critical of both capitalism and communism. But, as he insists in one of his encyclicals (*Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*), the church's doctrine is "not a 'third way' between liberal capitalism and Marxist collectivism." Tony Blair please note. Rather it is "a category of its own" — not ideology but theology. On the plane out to Poland for his first, great pilgrimage in 1979, he told journalists that the difference between communism and capitalism are superficial: "underneath is where the people are."

His first concern is with what he believes to be the presence of God and Christ in the world. But translated into the language of secular politics, his message becomes a set of demands to those who wield political, economic or cultural power, demands un-

derneath of the people "underneath." And a matching set of appeals to those individual people. And the centre is always what he calls "the human person" (comprising, in Catholic teaching, body, reason and soul). He insists that each and every individual human being has an inalienable dignity and inalienable rights. John Paul II's passionate embrace of the language of human rights, previously associated with the heirs of the Enlightenment, was little short of revolutionary. He told Fidel Castro to respect his citizens' human rights, but also General Stroessner in Paraguay.

Everywhere, he takes the part of the poor. He may condemn "liberation theology," but his Latin American homilies have been full of the liberation theologians' concerns for the oppressed. His demands for "social justice" make pure, neo-liberal free-market squirm. The right to work belongs to his core notion of human dignity.

Another great theme is tolerance and mutual respect between different peoples and faiths. He grew up with Jewish schoolfriends in pre-war Poland, and reconciliation between Christians and Jews is close to his heart. He has not gone as far as some Jewish leaders would like in acknowledging the Catholic Church's historical responsibility for anti-Semitism, but he has gone further than any of his predecessors. He also reaches out to Islam. Visiting Zagreb, he ordered Catholic priests to respect the "outstanding presence" of Muslims in the Balkans. Everywhere, too, he preaches peace. Even in Nazi-occupied Poland, he refused to support armed resistance. "Prayer is the only weapon that works," he told a friend. In Japan, he cried "Never again Hiroshima! Never again Auschwitz!" In Ireland, he told the IRA to abandon the violence that would "ruin the land you claim to love and the values you claim to cherish." In Britain, he criticised the Falklands war. And he opposed the Gulf war too. All peoples have a right to justice and sovereignty, he says, but these may only be achieved by non-violence means. As he told fellow Poles in 1983, when General Jaruzelski had tried to dash their hopes with tanks, "you must defeat evil with good."

Not only has he kept saying these things on 84 foreign trips, from Argentina to Yamaoussa. He has also dramatised them, with the skills of the professional actor he once nearly became. He has the ability to capture compassion in a photographic image: the gentle embrace of a crippled child, the head bowed in sadness at a place of horror. Yet he can also make the mighty tremble. Literally so in

the case of General Jaruzelski, whose knees we could see shaking before he met John Paul II in 1983. "But only at the beginning," the Pope commented kindly. Politically, his most obvious contribution was to the end of communism. Gorbachev himself says "everything that happened in Eastern Europe would have been impossible without the presence of the Pope." I would add "including Gorbachev." Without the Pope, no Solidarity in Poland. His great pilgrimage in 1979 broke the barrier of fear and created the solidarity that paved the way for Solidarity. This was far more important than anything in his biographer Carl Bernstein's over-excited tale of a "secret alliance" between the Vatican and the CIA.

Also, without Solidarity, no Gorbachev. I don't mean, of course, that Gorbachev would not have emerged as Soviet leader. I mean that he would not have made his seminal revision of Soviet policy towards Eastern Europe unless the persistence of Solidarity — despite Jaruzelski's tanks — had shown him that the Soviet Union just could not carry on in the old way. And when Gorbachev gave an inch, the Poles took a mile. Here is the specific chain of causation that goes from the election of the Polish Pope in 1978 to the end of Communism, and hence of the cold war, in 1989. If this was his clearest positive contribution to world history, then his largest negative contribution has been his opposition to all forms of artificial contraception. Here, too, he has been nothing if not consistent. He came to this position after thinking deeply about love, marriage and sexuality as a young priest. He personally encouraged Paul VI to take his stand against the Pill in the 1968 encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. He once said to a friend who challenged him on the subject: "I can't change what I've been teaching all my life." But the result has been much needless, avoidable suffering, as women in the Third World, denied contraceptives or proper education on birth control, have brought unwanted children into lives of misery. Yes, that very poverty and misery against which his own heart cries out.

After seeing off Communism in the Eighties, he has spent the nineties attacking the evils of unbridled capitalism. He tells us, far more robustly than any of the parties "of the Left" which again rule in Europe, that the rich still exploit the poor and the



Nonh damages the South. He says we are caught in the pursuit of "having" at the expense of "being." He says consumerism is "a web of false and empty gratifications." Turning to the world of work, he calls for a new ethic, one that values human dignity, sexual promiscuity, alcoholism, drug addiction and post-modernism. Most people, even in his native Poland, ignore the old man's warnings. But are we really so sure there is no pattern in the chaos about our own world, a world in which we have never been before?

As I write, I have before me a letter from Pope John Paul II, dated 1998. It is called "The Year of the Millennium." Who else would dare to write such things in the other half of the century? It is true and true. And important, too, for the next 100 years — never mind the next thousand. It may be the agenda for our time. But do any of us have a better one?

## Regional

### Western fantasies about 'Islamic culture'

By Souren Melikian

HISTORIANS WILL come to wonder one day how a distorted perception of the multiple cultures lumped under the denomination "Islamic" which spread over areas that span half the globe from Morocco to Malaysia, could have persisted so long in the West.

But the classification inherited from the past century persists in academia as it does in the auction world, where it lured large this week with the accompanying confusion that simplistic classifications generate. This had its unintended ironic aspects.

"Islamic Art and Manuscripts," Christie's of London

proclaimed in its catalogue cover for a sale Tuesday, "Islamic Works of Art." Bonhams intoned a day later. Sotheby's wrapped it up on Thursday with "Arts of the Islamic World."

Yet, lo and behold, all ran Iranian art on the cover of their catalogues.

Christie's chose the detail of a mid-16th century binding, which sold for \$17,500 (\$30,450). Bonhams picked an early-19th century oil painting combining a Western technique and the Eastern penchant for stylisation (thampered by a huge estimate, that never got off the ground).

And Sotheby's ran a detail of a 17th-century book painting — the figure of a young man in a

landscape that betrays the Western influence that was coming into Iran via Hindustan Islamic India, with which Iran had intimate links — beginning with the common use of Persian as the language of literature and polished social intercourse.

The choice of the covers in part reflected the fact that all three sales, as usual, included a big chunk of art from Iran, even if this was thinly disguised by resorting to such designations as the mid-fashioned "Persia" dynasty characterisations ("Seljuk," "Timurid," "Safavid") or city names (Isfahan, Shiraz, Tabriz, etc.).

And in all three sales, the Iranian section was likewise followed by, or sometimes interlaced with, smaller numbers of works of art from everywhere else — a bit of Arab art from Syria or Egypt here, a bit of Turkish art there, a number of mostly late works from Hindustan, and so on.

The result was one of visual confusion, as is mostly the case in displays of "Islamic" art. The disparate nature of the works on view made it difficult to focus on any given aspect and to come away with a clear, meaningful impression.

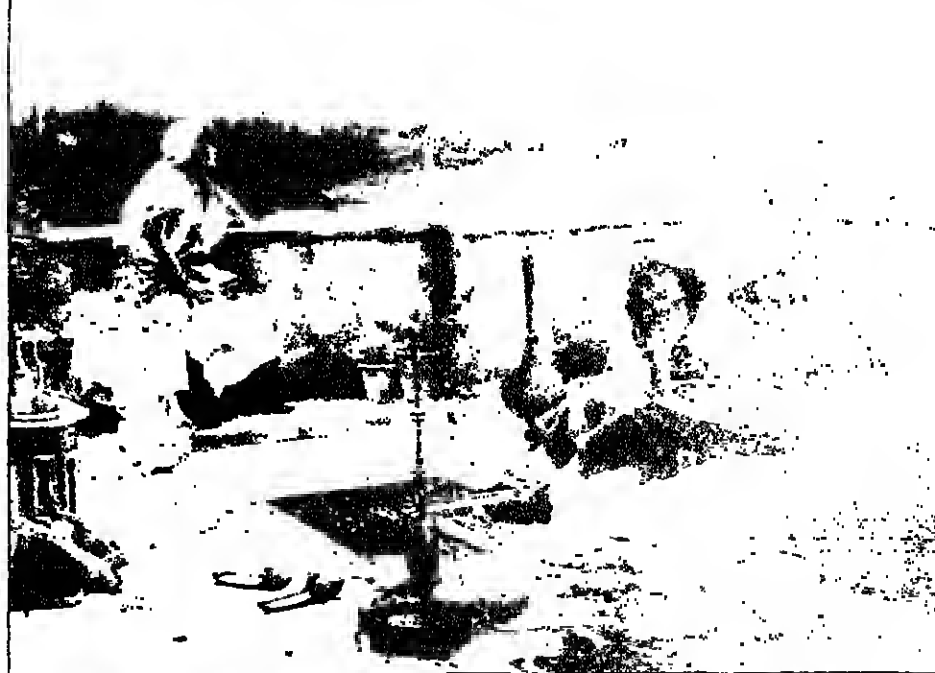
To take the case of Christie's sale: There is little common ground between a 17th-century agate mace from Hindustan (sold for \$6,325); a glazed reversion tile ripped off the walls of some Iranian palace dated Muhammad 682 (i.e. April 1283; sold for \$2,300), or a small blue and white tray from 16th-century Turkey (sold \$29,900).

It is in part because of this lack of aesthetic unity and of the disorientation that it generates among buyers that auction-house experts find it so difficult to make accurate financial forecasts.

On Tuesday at Christie's more than half the lots were unsold, largely due to their ambitious estimates. If the sale was a financial success for Christie's, it owed it to a very few important works.

The sensation that day was the discovery of a large manuscript of a collection of major theological writings in Arabic.

"The Rushdian Collection" was written in 711 (A.D. 1311-12), within the lifetime of its author, Rashid ad-Din, Grand Vizier to two succeeding rulers of the Mongol dynasty of Iran. Rashid ad-Din, born into the Jewish faith, went over to Islam



'The Harem resting at sunset' by Spanish artist Jose Echeña

at the same time as the Mongol ruler Ghazan Khan, originally a Buddhist. The Sufi mystics of Iran inspired the conversions, and this is reflected in Rashid ad-Din's essays.

Christie's manuscript was signed several times by the calligrapher known as Zudnevis Al-Baghdadi, in Persian "The Fast Scribe from Baghdad," who also copied the other manuscript written in Rashid ad-Din's lifetime, now in the Paris National Library.

Not in perfect condition and without any stated provenance, this major monument of cultural history was expected by Christie's two weeks before the sale to sell for "in excess of \$100,000." On the eve of the sale, this had been revised to "£300,000 to \$500,000." Such wild variations over a short-time say a lot about the uncertainties surrounding "Islamic" art, as well as the methods of auction houses that "talk to prospective buyers."

When the manuscript sold for \$419,500, the director of the Islamic department, William Robinson, could not restrain a broad grin.

He had good reason to be relieved. The pendulum kept swinging from one extreme to the other. Up came a pleasing manuscript of the Iranian Sufi poet Sa'adi's "Rose Garden" (Golestan), calligraphed and illuminated in 953 (A.D. 1546-7) by Enayatollah ash-Shirazi (mysteriously, the signature was over-

looked in the catalogue. There was no response. The hammer fell at \$3,200. Hopes had been set on a price between \$4,000 and \$6,000.

Later, countless bronzes and pieces of pottery came unstuck, often due to the huge "estimates" imposed by vendors keen to make a killing. The same tendency wrought havoc at Bonhams on Wednesday afternoon.

On that day Sotheby's was holding its sale of "Fine Oriental and European Rugs and Carpets," with guess what on the catalogue cover? A detail of two sections of a 16th century silk velvet from Iran. The figure of a prince seated on his knees in a garden, while a woman stands handing him a cup, deals with the subject of the ritualised wine libations that take place at the crack of dawn as the cock crows — hence the presence of the bird.

Hardly any of these court silks, of which there once were large numbers, survive. Even so, few would have dared predict the mind-boggling £793,500 that greeted it.

As Sotheby's wound up the festivities on Thursday with its "Arts of the Islamic World," there were more surprises.

Of these, none was quite as entertaining as the extravaganza at the heart of which was an oil painting of a woman standing in a very Italianate Baroque setting. Sotheby's saw this as "a rare and highly important Safavid oil painting." The entry specified

"Persia, Islamic, c. 1650-1700." This is hardly fit.

The painting belongs to a group, of which two specimens were seen at a Sotheby's London in 1976. In the 1976 volume of the annual U.S. journal "The Bulletin of the Asia Institute," I drew attention to the iconographical details shared by the group with some Georgian oil paintings executed in the third quarter of the 17th century under strong Iranian influence — which does not mean they equate with Iranian art.

In one of the paintings, the presence of a rooster pig's head rules out any possibility that such works, highly visible by virtue of their size, might have been intended for a Muslim home.

In painterly terms, the group displays an awareness of European art, more specifically of 17th-century Roman Baroque architecture and objects — note the black bronze vase — that Iranian painters did not equate as far as we know. What the group as a whole points to is the existence of a fascinating and previously unrecognized school of Georgian painting.

On Thursday a gigantic \$925,500 price greeted this very fine painting, setting a record for Georgian art. That the occasion should have been the "Islamic Week" is well in tune with the Western fantasies about "Islamic culture."

— International Herald Tribune

## The Saturday Crossword

### CAPITAL IDEA

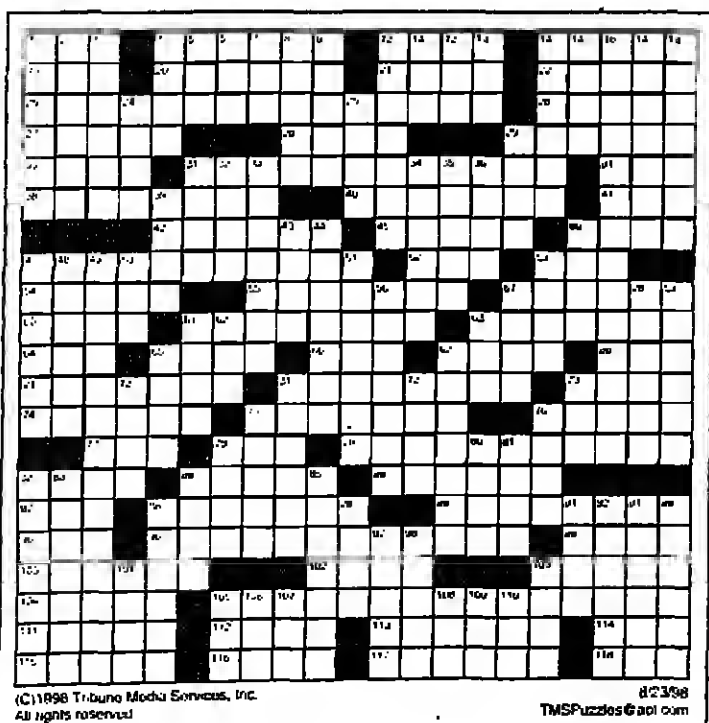
By Josiah Braward, Scranton, Pennsylvania

#### ACROSS

- 1 Flap gun
- 4 Capture again
- 10 Witly remark
- 14 Biscuitlike pastry
- 19 Perished
- 20 Star in a French sky
- 21 Clapnet
- 22 Metal mixture
- 23 "The Iron Chancellor"
- 26 Island in the Philippines
- 27 Refuse heaps
- 28 "Gargoyle" director
- 29 Choose a side
- 30 "Oes" (Day of Wrath)
- 31 President born in Virginia
- 37 "The Fall of the House of Usher" (novel)
- 38 Substantial
- 40 Electra's brother
- 41 Election winners
- 42 Necropolis
- 45 Blatantly
- 46 Ripe idea
- 47 "79 and 51" U.S. Open tennis champion
- 52 Profit figure
- 53 Past prime
- 54 Picture puzzle
- 55 Intriguing
- 57 Obscure
- 60 Concerning
- 61 Light musical production
- 63 Copse
- 64 Lamb's lament
- 65 War god
- 66 Mail address
- 67 Island group off Denmark
- 68 Literary collection
- 69 Emily Dickinson's lifelong home
- 71 More numerous
- 72 Actor Tamara
- 74 Simple shed
- 75 Exceptional
- 76 Watered silk
- 77 One of the Stooges
- 78 Outing part of Russia
- 79 One of "Charlie's Angels"
- 82 "Never by Any Means"
- 84 Florida team
- 86 Orange oil
- 87 Med. scan
- 88 Parts of eyes
- 90 Long-haired clubs

#### DOWN

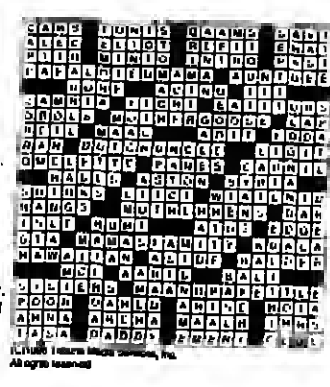
- 1 Of crystal-filled stones
- 2 Mt. Tuscany
- 3 Valium role
- 4 Gave it in neutral
- 5 WWII arena
- 6 Weighty weight
- 7 Cheat bone
- 8 Winter Walker
- 9 Monterey money
- 10 Founder of Utah
- 11 Slip up
- 12 Org
- 13 Tongue click
- 14 Beauty parlour
- 15 Red's headquarters
- 16 "Moontruck"
- 17 Cascar ronnei
- 18 Dunespeak
- 19 Sami clan
- 20 Fuel cartel, briefly
- 21 Office note
- 22 For both sides
- 23 Napoleon victory site
- 24 Aleutian island
- 25 Rubella
- 26 Actress Durbin
- 28 Art
- 29 Leave [it] as is
- 30 Alejandro and Fernando
- 31 Latin war
- 34 Sinned
- 35 Political coalition
- 36 Oil clan groups
- 37 Change a life
- 38 16th president
- 39 Pool stick
- 40 Quibler
- 41 Ron or Leni
- 42 English schoolboy
- 43 Scotch



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#### element

- 58 "Raging Bull" Oscar winner
- 59 Pelican origin
- 60 Approximately
- 61 Classroom favorite
- 62 Thru, if
- 63 Comic Johnson
- 64 Wing flap
- 65 Tautologous compound
- 66 Leave [it] as is
- 67 Movie title
- 68 City entrance
- 69 In working order
- 70 Leonardo's o.g.
- 71 Completion
- 72 Pile of dust
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**Majali: Exports should be seen as a matter of 'life or death' by Jordanian industries**

He urged all industries to seriously and genuinely move to develop their operations and ready all technical and financial capabilities to enable "our industry to compete in the local market and to deservedly reach outside markets." (Al Ruff)

economic dimensions of the project in terms of the extent of the investment's contribution in the Jordanian economic climate and its appropriateness to the laws and regulations.

Bataineh said that after obtaining the approval of the Jordanian side, the investor will have to negotiate with the French Ministry of Finance to secure a suitable discount which is in the hands of the French side. The discount will be set in accordance with considerations that have to do with the nature of the project, the spokesman added.

He continued that the investor would have to pay the amount to the French side which, in turn, would notify the Jordanian party of such a payment. For its part, Jordan's Ministry of Finance will pay the equivalent of the amount of investment in Jordanian dinars to the investor's account at one of the local banks.

"The debt swap with France carries benefits to Jordan as it will attract and encourage investment in addition to benefiting of 47 per cent discount of the debt's nominal value," Bataureh concluded (Al Dostour).

## Best firms

of the bank-  
lined by 5.23  
are prices of

The bulletin indicated that among the 93 firms that changed hands in the bourse, share prices of 18 firms recorded increases in their prices, 54 companies registered decreases while prices of 21 firms remained unchanged.

The parallel market's turnover amounted to 15.2 per cent of the turnover. Shares of 54 companies were traded with 18 recording increases in their prices and 54 declining.

Naqeeb said trading at the parallel market focused on the Union Tobacco, National Poultry and Arah Financial Investment, with a total turnover amounting in 8.9 per cent.

AMMAN (J.T.) — "The presence and operation of the Arab Bank in many world cities and financial centres require continued efforts to deal with international developments," Abdel Majeed Shouman, board chairman and general manager of the Arab Bank, told a seminar Friday.

Speaking to journalists covering the seminar on the "Impact of the Euro on the Banking Industry" which opened here Friday at the InterContinental Hotel, Shouman emphasized that the launching of the euro in January requires further efforts on part of the Arab Bank administration because the bank has branches in the countries of the euro members and has to deal with the new currency even in other non-euro member countries.

Shoosman said the bank started its preparations for the euro very early, beginning with the technological adjustment and development of the banking operations and the automatic systems. The bank also worked on providing the customers with more effective services through advanced methods.

He added that the past four decades have pit-

countries and China, Arab Bank is only keen to serve the interest of the Arabs, and to promote Arab production, markets and development.

Abdul Haniid Abdel Majeed Shountan, assistant director general, described the current seminar as part of the Arab Bank's training programme in preparation for the next stage. The seminar was attended by the managers of the bank's branches, as well as executives of other banks' subsidiaries outside the euro region.

He stressed that "together we shall review the many requirements we have to explore with a view of bettering our cooperation."

The assistant director general also explained that the main issue of this workshop is the impact of the euro on the banking industry, and the approach through which the financial institutions will face this challenge, taking into consideration the features of the transitional phase and the period that will follow.

At this stage, Shooman said, the areas that will be affected by the introduction of the euro are the customer accounts, transfers and payments and the banks' resources.

amounts

He further noted that the Arab Bank, whose branch network extends to the euro zone, has to strategically address this issue by establishing policies and procedures to regulate different aspects of the implementation of the euro.

Answering a question on the euro impact on the Arab region, the general manager said the new European currency will have such an influence in light of the trade relations existing between the Arab countries and Europe. "In this regard, no one should forget the deep traditional relations between the two sides," he emphasised.

As for the Arab-European commercial relations and the possibility of re-evaluating the prices of certain commodities, including oil, against other currencies such as the euro, Shooman said it is not that easy to re-evaluate the oil price against the euro or other currencies.

Such an issue was proposed some time ago, but it was encountered by tough resistance, though 60 per cent of the world's consumption of this commodity comes from Arab oil resources.

## (Continued from page 8)

trend will continue to prevail in the market unless something new happens such as an agreement between the Palestinians and Israelis," he said.

"It might affect the stocks market, but the decisive factor will be the level of demand and supply in the stock market," he added.

Naqeeb told the Jordan Times that Arab Bank shares accounted for 25 per cent of the total turnover, followed by the Housing and Jordan banks with seven and 4.7 per cent respectively.

Out of the 14 commercial banks, shares of seven banks recorded price declines, including the Arab Bank which lost JD3.5 of its price and closed at JD204.

Share prices of 22 industrial companies also

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# Olympic track star suffocated; seizure was not Flo-Jo's first

SANTA ANA, California (AP) — World record sprinter Florence Griffith Joyner suffered an epileptic seizure that caused her to die of asphyxiation, coroners' authorities said.

Griffith Joyner, 38, died at her Mission Viejo home on Sept. 21, and investigators had been trying since then to determine the cause. There had been speculation about heart problems, and some had suggested the world's fastest woman used performance-enhancing drugs.

None of it was true, Orange County officials said Thursday.

"Flojo" to fans and competitors, Griffith Joyner had a congenital brain abnormality known as cavernous angioma, said Dr. Barbara Zais, one of the investigators.

The condition allows blood to accumulate outside normal blood vessels in the brain or spinal tissue, and may be found in 0.25 per cent of the population, she said. Once considered rare, it has been detected more often in recent years with the advent of CAT scans and other diagnostic tools.

The seizure apparently struck during sleep, causing Griffith Joyner's limbs to tense. It possibly wrenched her head to the right as she lay on her stomach, said Dr. Richard Fukumoto, chief of forensics for the Orange County sheriff and coroner.

"In layman's terms, she suffocated," Fukumoto told reporters. Explaining the term "positional asphyxia," he said her airway was probably already constricted by the involuntary turning of her head. Pillows and blankets on that side further hampered her oxygen supply.

"This episode I would say would have taken minutes, only," Fukumoto said. "Definitely less than an hour."

Her husband, 1984 Olympic triple jump champion Al Joyner, called paramedics after discovering she was not breathing that morning.

Toxicology tests showed she had taken about one tablet each of the over-the-counter painkiller Tylenol and antihistamine Benadryl, but "there was nothing unusual in terms of drugs," said Lt. Frank Fitzpatrick, head of forensic sciences for the sheriff's office.

Nor were there any obvious heart problems, Fukumoto said.

Griffith Joyner never failed a drug test. Family, friends and sports officials were happy to hear those rumors die.

Fighting back tears, Al Joyner said his wife had taken "the final, ultimate drug test. And it's what we always said: 'It's nothing there.' So please, please, give us time to grieve and just let my wife rest in peace."

"We now hope that this great Olympic champion, wife and mother can rest in peace, and that her millions of admirers around the world will celebrate her legacy to sport and children every day," U.S. Olympic Committee President Bill Hybl said.

"It is time for the whispers and dark allegations to cease."

World-class athletes expressed similar sentiments.

"I had felt had about all the statements that had been made about her," said Roger Kingdom, two-time Olympic champion in the 110-metre hurdles. "I'm glad she's been cleared and exonerated. Now, she can rest in peace, and the rest of the world can see that she was a great athlete."

Dwight Stones, former world record-holder in the high jump, said she was "the most tested athlete" of the 1988 Olympics.

"I think this (the autopsy) is fabulous and phenomenal vindication for her and her family. Now, they should just leave her alone," he said.

Added long-jumper Martha Watson, a four-time Olympian, "She did too much for our sport to be accused of things that no one ever was able to confirm."

The seizure was not Griffith Joyner's first. She was hospitalized in 1996 a day after suffering a seizure on a flight to St. Louis. Her husband and daughter were traveling with her, but the family declined to discuss her condition at the time.

Many people never show symptoms of cavernous angioma and may live their whole lives without knowing they have it. In others, it can cause headaches and seizures, Zais said. The condition can sometimes be detected by CAT scans and can be treated, she said. But sometimes scans fail to detect it.

During the press conference, sheriff's spokesman Lt. Hector Rivera cut off questions about Griffith Joyner's medical history and whether the condition had been diagnosed.

The abnormality has never been associated in medical research with steroids or any other drugs, Fukumoto said. It may develop right along with the brain of a fetus, Zais said.

Stylish, smooth and muscular, Griffith Joyner won three Olympic gold medals in the 1988 Seoul Games and set world records that still stand in the 100- and 200-meter dashes.

In the mid-1980s, Griffith Joyner moved from Watts, her home neighborhood in southern Los Angeles, to upscale Mission Viejo on the Orange County coast.

Her flowing black hair, skin-tight outfits and glittering 6-inch fingernails brought a dash of flash to track and field. A line of athletic shoes and clothes that she had been working on was scheduled to go on sale next month.

## Nebiolo — Flo-Jo can now rest in peace

LONDON (R) — IAAF President Primo Nebiolo rebuked the media on Friday for tarnishing the reputation of triple Olympic champion Florence Griffith Joyner with "campaigns of misinformation."

Nebiolo, always a staunch supporter of the flamboyant American sprinter, said a U.S. pathologist's report stating Flo-Jo had suffocated during an epileptic seizure in her sleep lifted any suspicion surrounding her.

"This report ensures that Florence Griffith Joyner will be able to rest in peace," said Nebiolo, the most powerful official in world athletics, in a statement.

Nebiolo, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, urged the media to "act more responsibly in future cases of this type."

"Her family have had to endure irresponsible media reports that have sought to tarnish her reputation — without any real proof," he added.

"These campaigns of misinformation serve not only to damage individual athletes and our sport as a whole, but also have a negative impact on the multi-million dollar anti-doping campaign to which the IAAF has been committed for many years."

"I hope that, like the IAAF family, they (the media) will now send a message of love and sympathy to the bereaved relatives who have lost so much."

## Asian League Champions Handball Tournament Al Ahli face Kuwait's Kathema today

By Roufan Nahhas

AMMAN — Jordan's Al Ahli have a tough test ahead Saturday when they meet Kuwait's Kathema in their third match at the 1st Asian League Champions Handball Tournament currently underway at the Sports Palace.

In Saturday's early match, Iran's Zobohan will try to compensate their earlier loss to Jordan's Al Ahli Thursday when they meet Qatar's Al Rayyan.

Jordan's Al Ahli kept their fans breathless until the last minute when they beat Iran's Zobohan 36-35 (19-17) after the referee granted Al Ahli's captain Mohammed Taha a free shot to win their first match of the tournament.

Al Ahli lost their first match in the tournament to Qatar's Al Rayyan 33-25 (14-15) on the opening day after an exciting start but a disappointing finish.

In the other match, Kuwait's Kathema ended Al Salt's dream of winning their second match after beating them 26-21 (14-9).

Al Salt coach Mohammad Hamzah expressed optimism of his team's coming matches. "We studied our first matches and did some amendments which will help us in our upcoming matches," Hamzah told the Jordan Times.

"The reason for our modest performance against Iran's Zobohan is that it was our first match and the players needed some time to adapt themselves to their opponent's play," he said. "As we know six professional players of Iran's national team are playing for Zobohan" he added.

Al Salt had tied Iran's Zobohan 29-29 in their first match but lost their second encounter against Kuwait's Kathema.

"We did not look our best against Kathema especially after a couple of defence mistakes which cost us the match," he pointed out.

"But we hope to avoid our mistakes in our next match against Al Ahli," he added.

Only five teams are taking part in the Oct. 20-27 event after China's Army team and UAE's Al Shareqah declined. The competing teams are Jordan's Al Salt and Al Ahli, Iran's Zobohan, Asfahan, Qatar's Al Rayyan and Kuwait's Kathema.

### Schedule of matches

Rayyan vs Zobohan	6:00 pm
Al Ahli vs Kathema	6:15 pm

## Swaysland wins FedEx Golf Tournament

By Roufan Nahhas and Mun'em Fakhoury

AMMAN — New Zealand's Roy Swaysland retained his title as champion of the FedEx Golf Tournament Friday which was held at the Bisharat Golf Course with 40 participants taking part in the annual event organised by FedEx to mark five years of operations in the Kingdom.

Paul David came second in the low handicap category and Jonathan Soper took the third place also in the low handicap category after a tie with J. M. Kim who came first in the high handicap category.

The competition witnessed a heated competition between Swaysland and David for first place as Swaysland was leading with a 69 points but David had to settle for the second place with 67 points.

Luck seemed to abandon golfer Dan Tully, champion of the Bisharat Golf Tournament, as he had to settle for the nearest to the pin for hole No. 4 title and longest drive for hole No. 5.

His Royal Highness Prince Faisal presented the winners with trophies and prizes at a special ceremony at the Bisharat Golf Course.

The organisers presented Prince Faisal with a model of the FedEx airplane.

### Following are the results of the tournament:

Name	H/C	Gross	Net
Roy Swaysland	2	71	69
Paul David	14	81	67
Jonathan Soper	14	82	68
J. M. Kim	14	82	68
N. Chu	28	84	56

## Sampras withdraws from Lyon Grand Prix

LYON (AFP) — World No. 1 Pete Sampras was forced to withdraw from the \$725,000 Lyon Grand Prix ATP Tour tournament here Friday with an injured back.

The American top seed, who beat Todd Woodbridge 6-2 6-4 on Thursday, was set to meet Germany's up and coming star Tommy Haas in the quarter-finals in the event he has won three times.

His defection is a setback to his hopes of ending the season as number one in the rankings for the sixth successive year.

But he insisted it would not mean the end of his season, pinpointing next week's Stuttgart Open for his return to the court.

He said: "My objective is to be back in condition as quickly as possible. I'm going to have a complete rest for two or three days and restart training on Monday."

"I felt discomfort during the match against Woodbridge but I'd already felt something was wrong arriving in Lyon."

Sampras added that he had taken the decision to pull out in mid-morning. Haas is now faced with a semi-final clash against the winner of the match between No. 3 seed Marcelo Rios and France's Arnaud di Pasquale.



Pete Sampras of the U.S. hits a forehand during his second round match at the Lyon Grand Prix ATP Tour tournament. Sampras later withdrew from the tournament (AFP photo)



Bayer 04 Leverkusen's player Emerson (C) falls between Glasgow Rangers' players Giovanni van Bronckhorst (L) and Barry Ferguson (R) during their UEFA Cup second round, first leg match in Leverkusen. Rangers won 2-1 (AFP photo)

## EUROPEAN CUPS SCORES

By The Associated Press

### UEFA Cup

Champions League- Third Rotation

#### Group A

Olympiakos (Greece) 1 Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands) 0

Porto (Portugal) 3 Croatia Zagreb (Croatia) 0

#### Group B

Rosenborg (Norway) 3 Galatasaray (Turkey) 0

Athletic Bilbao (Spain) 0 Juventus (Italy) 0

#### Group C

Inter Milan (Italy) 2 Spartak Moscow (Russia) 1

Real Madrid (Spain) 6 Sturm Graz (Austria) 1

#### Group D

B. Muzich (Germany) 1 Barcelona (Spain) 0

Brondby (Denmark) 2 Manchester United (England) 6

#### Group E

Arsenal (England) 1 Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine) 0

Lens (France) 1 Panathinaikos (Greece) 1

#### Group F

HJK Helsinki (Finland) 2 Benfica (Portugal) 0

PSV Eindhoven (Net.) 1 Kaiserslautern (Germany) 2

### Cup Winners Cup

Second Round- First Leg

Lazio (Italy) 0 Partizan Belgrade (Yugoslavia) 0

Valerenga (Norway) 1 Besiktas (Turkey) 0

Heerenveen (Net.) 2 Varteks (Croatia) 1

Genk (Belgium) 1 Mallorca (Spain) 1

Pathonios (Greece) 3 Apollon Limassol (Cyprus) 2

SV Ried (Austria) 2 Maccabi Haifa (Israel) 1

L. Moscow (Russia) 3 Braga (Portugal) 1

Chelsea (England) 1 FC Copenhagen (Denmark) 1

### UEFA Cup

Second Round- First Leg

Group D

B. Leverkusen (Ger.) 1 Rangers (Scotland) 2

## No guarantee skiing drug free — coach

SOELDEN, Austria (R) — Swiss coach Theo Nadig said on Friday that he could not guarantee that all his skiers were free of drugs.

Nadig's disclosure at an International Ski Federation forum followed his denial that he had levelled doping allegations at a particular team or skier of taking performance-enhancing substances.

Austrian ski officials felt Nadig had personally accused their team and double Olympic champion Hermann Maier of doping in an interview with the Swiss weekly 'Sport'.

It was not my intention to accuse any team or skier of doping," Nadig said.

"All I said was that we should not close our eyes on the matter. We, the Swiss team, are willing to confront the matter."

"Three Swiss cyclists were hanged at the Tour de France for doping — that is something we never believed possible in Switzerland."

"I cannot guarantee that all of my skiers or the skiers of any other nation are completely clean. Something should be done in order for our sport not to make negative headlines," he said.

Austrian Alpine director Hans Pum denied the allegations and said Nadig's statement's were based on jealousy.

Austrian men swept to victory in 25 of last season's 37 World Cup races and became the first nation to claim all the men's titles.

"At a time when Swiss skiers were the dominating force on the circuit, we accepted it quietly although it hurt our pride badly," Pum said.

"Making such accusations without proof damages our sport. I cannot understand how anyone can say things like that in a time when the world is so sensitive about doping."

Newly-elected FIS president Gian Franco Kasper said: "We and all other winter sports federations are hardliners. That is the stand we will take at the International Olympic Committee's congress on doping."

"This summer we carried out doping tests on about 400 of our athletes — approximately 200 from the Alpine sector and 200 from the Nordic department. They were all negative."

Kasper said that remarks made by coaches or anyone within the federation should be ignored.

"We can and will begin taking sanctions against coaches and other who make accusations without any proof," he said.

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<b>PHILADELPHIA '1'</b>		<b>PHILADELPHIA '2'</b>		<b>PLAZA</b>		<b>CONCORD</b>		<b>GALLERIA 1</b>		<b>GALLERIA 2</b>		<b>Hushaw Yanes Theater</b>	
Nathan Lane & Lee Evans .. in		George Clooney & Nicole Kidman .. in		Comedian Mohammad Huneidi .. in		CONCORD "1" Michael Douglas & Sean Penn .. in		ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria		ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria		Watch out for the new play	
<b>MOUSE HUNT</b>		<b>THE PEACE MAKER</b>		<b>SAEEDI AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY</b>		<b>THE GAME</b>		Comedian Mohammad Huneidi .. in		Comedian Mohammad Huneidi .. in			
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						Robert Redford .. in		Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:15, 10:30			
						<b>LIP CLOSE &amp; PERSONAL</b>							
						Shows: 3:30, 5:30 only							



## Jordan takes 8th place in regional handicapped skiing championship

By a Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's water skiing team for the handicapped won eighth place in the Europe, Middle East and Africa Water Skiing Championship for the Handicapped which concluded its activities Friday in Agaba with 9 countries taking part. Daoud Jamal and Haytham Kiswani achieved fourth place in the MP3 level, the jumping event. Jamal also earned fifth place in the slalom event, MP3 level, while Ahmad Qalam took seventh place in the same level. In the championship's acrobatic event, the sixth and seventh places went successively to Adnan Aboudi and Jamal. Latvia broke the world record in the jumping event when its team registered a 27.60-metre-high water jump. The United Kingdom's team won overall

### Final Team Standings

- 1- United Kingdom
- 2- Italy
- 3- Switzerland
- 4- Belgium
- 5- Holland
- 6- Ireland
- 7- Latvia
- 8- Jordan
- 9- Norway

first place in the three-day championship, held under the patronage of HRH Prince Ra'd Ben Zaid, head of the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped. Jordan will host the First Arab Paralympic Games next summer following the Pan Arab Games which will be held August 15-31, 1999.



Mary Pierce

## Williams and Seles in a hurry

MOSCOW (AFP) — Top seed Venus Williams and second-seeded Monica Seles both scored quickfire quarter-final wins on Friday to advance to the final four of the Kremlin Cup WTA Tour event. Williams beat Katarina Studenikova of Slovakia 6-1, 6-0 and Seles also only dropped one game as she downed Silvia Fania of Italy 6-0, 6-1. The two Americans were joined in the semi-finals by two French players, fifth-seeded Mary Pierce and seventh-seeded

Sandrine Testud. Pierce beat unseeded Magui Serna of Spain 7-5, 6-3 while Testud surprised third-seeded Conchita Martinez of Spain 7-6 (7/1), 7-5. Martinez served at 5-6 with a chance to send the second set to a tiebreaker but Testud, more aggressive throughout, broke her to 15. Williams now plays Pierce with Seles facing Testud.

## Agassi cruises to Czech Indoor quarterfinals

OSTRAVA (AP) — Second-seed Andre Agassi of the United States outplayed Magnus Norman of Sweden 6-2, 7-5 Thursday to advance to the quarterfinals of the \$1 million Czech Indoor ATP tennis tournament. Agassi broke Norman's serve in the first and fifth game of the first set despite playing in a practice tempo. Norman improved his performance in the second set and both players held on to their serves until the tenth game, but Agassi finally managed to break the Swede and win the match in straight sets. Meanwhile, home favorite Martin Damm rallied to beat fourth seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia 3-6, 3-3, 6-2. Kafelnikov, No. 10 in the world, broke Damm's serve in the fourth game and comfortably won the first set, but gradually grew nervous as Damm started to rush the set. Kafelnikov tried to stick to his aggressive tennis, but Damm, the only remaining Czech in the tournament, improved both his serve and returns and eventually won the match. "It would be nice if I

could repeat my 1996 result here, that is semifinals," Damm said after the match. In the next round, Damm will face Wayne Black of Zimbabwe who beat the 1996 Czech Indoor champion on David Prinosil of Germany 3-6, 6-2, 6-4. Black, ranked 92nd on the ATP Tour, crushed the Czech-born Prinosil with a

dashing serve, often faster than 200 kilometres (125 miles) per hour. In other Thursday action, Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine defeated third seed Karol Kucera of Slovakia 6-4, 6-7 (4-7), 6-4, and Jan Kruslak of Slovakia downed Guillaume Raoux of France 7-5, 6-2.



## Shishani beats Shadian in 7th speed test

By Roufan Nahhas

AMMAN — Edmer Shishani drove his Opel Ascona to first place clocking 2:27.36 in the seventh round of the Pepsi Speed Test organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) with 26 drivers taking part.

Winner of the sixth round Khatchik Shadian took second place clocking 2:28.22 in his Renault 5 GT Turbo, followed by Amir Najjar in third place in his Daihatsu Charade GT with 2:28.47.

Shadian was able to beat his brother Barkev and Shishani — who came fourth in the last speed test — in the first round but Shishani did not give up as clocked best time in the second round beating the Shadian brothers.

Results are registered in the Jordan Drivers Open National Championship and Jordan Open National Speed Test/Rumman Championship.

The Speed Test consisted of two competitive time runs and a third run for the best ten times recorded for the day. Competitors are provided with a map of the route a day before the event and they are not allowed to drive the course but instead they can walk the course for pre-trials which make it more exciting.

RACJ still has one speed test to end the 1998 season. Meanwhile, Barkev Shadian took first place in the sixth round of Al Aswaq Open Car Championship with 12 drivers taking part.

Marwan Nuqul came second and Sanir Rifai came third.

## Cuban defector's family to join Yankees parade festivities

NEW YORK (AP) — For Orlando Hernandez, the only victory greater than winning the World Series in his first U.S. major league season could be a reunion with his mother and children. Hernandez's mother, two children and the mother of the children have been granted permission by the Cuban government to come to the United States, a State Department official said Thursday. Hernandez helped lead the Yankees to a 9-3 victory Sunday in Game 2 of the World Series over the San Diego Padres. The Yankees completed a sweep of the best-of-7 series on Wednesday.

The Yankees pitcher, who has not seen his family since he escaped from Cuba on a raft last December, was expected to see his relatives as early as Friday.

No exact time frame for the reunion was given, but Rep. Jose Serrano, a Bronx congressman who has been working with the Vatican and other groups to get Hernandez's family here, hoped they would make it to the States in time for Friday's parade celebrating the World Series champs.

Serrano didn't know details of the family's arrival, but said: "It's just enough to know that a mother is going to get to see her son."

Maria Cubas of Miami, whose husband helped Hernandez defect, said the family hoped to fly to Miami, then to New York for Friday's World Series parade, which begins at 11:30 a.m. The U.S. State Department said the family, including

Hernandez's daughters Steffi, 3, and Yahumara, 8, would return to Cuba after a brief visit.

In Havana, Steffi and Yahumara danced on the porch of their cement block home and neighbors hugged the girls' mother after they found out they would be reunited with Hernandez.

"Much health," an elderly neighbor woman told Hernandez's ex-wife, Norma Elvira Manzo Ibanez, as she kissed her on the cheek. "Much luck, my dear."

Manzo Ibanez said she and her two daughters along with Hernandez's mother, would leave Thursday night on a charter flight for the United States.

Joe Zwilling, a spokesman for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, said Cardinal John O'Connor had received a letter from Hernandez on Tuesday asking for the church to intervene with the Cuban government.

The cardinal then sent a message to Cuban President Fidel Castro on Wednesday morning on behalf of the baseball player. By the evening, the Cuban ambassador to the United Nations called O'Connor and said Castro would allow the Hernandez family to

travel to the United States, Zwilling said.

The cardinal called Yankees owner George Steinbrenner during the first inning of Wednesday's game to give him the news.

Steinbrenner notified Hernandez and arranged for a plane to fly the family from Miami to New York.

Meanwhile in Washington, Attorney General Janet Reno directed the U.S. government to allow the family to enter the country.

Hernandez, who signed a four-year, \$6.6 million contract with the Yankees in March, was banned from playing baseball in Cuba for dealing with American major league scouts.

He escaped from Cuba in December, climbing onto a rickety raft with his wife, Noris Bosch, and six others. They landed on a remote Bahamian island and were rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Hernandez's half-brother, Livan, also played baseball in Cuba and defected during a trip with his team to Mexico in 1995. He helped lead the Florida Marlins to a World Series championship a year ago. The two brothers have the same father, but different mothers.

## Jordan in Group 4 of Asian Cup qualifiers

By Aileen Bannayan

AMMAN — The Kingdom will be playing alongside Qatar, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, and Palestine in Group 4 of the qualifiers of the 2000 Asian Cup following the draw which took place in Beirut Thursday.

General Secretary of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Peter Velappan and senior FIFA officials attended the drawing ceremony held in the village of Adma north of the Lebanese capital.

Bassam Haroun of the Jordan Football Association attended the draw in which a record 42 countries were divided into 10 geographical groups.

Only the group winners will qualify to the 12-team finals together with hosts Lebanon and former champs Saudi Arabia.

Prior to the draw the AFC placed the teams in three levels. Jordan came in level three which includes most of the teams. Afghanistan is the only AFC member country missing the event.

Jordan has never qualified to the finals and last took part in the 1996 qualifiers when Amman hosted Iraq and India with Iraq emerging as group winners.

A Jordan Football Association official said the national team will be regrouped following the conclusion of the Premier

League next month to start preparations for March-Dec. 1999 qualifiers.

The national team's last event was the Arab Cup finals in Doha, Qatar where Jordan was eliminated from the first round.

The groups for the qualifying round of the 2000 Asian Cup:

- Group 1 : Iraq, Oman, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan
  - Group 2 : Iran, Syria, Bahrain, Maldives
  - Group 3 : United Arab Emirates, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh
  - Group 4 : Qatar, Kazakhstan, Jordan, Pakistan, Palestine
  - Group 5 : Kuwait, Turkmenistan, Yemen, Nepal, Bhutan
  - Group 6 : South Korea, Myanmar, Laos, Mongolia
  - Group 7 : Indonesia, Hong Kong, Cambodia
  - Group 8 : Thailand, Malaysia, Taipei, North Korea
  - Group 9 : China, Vietnam, Philippines, Guam
  - Group 10: Japan, Singapore, Macao, Brunei
- Lebanon (host) and Saudi Arabia (holder) qualify automatically.

## Honda struggle with F1 comeback

TOKYO (AFP) — Honda is struggling to develop a chassis for its return to Formula One, the company president admitted Friday.

"Hopefully next year. But most probably in the year 2000," Hiroyuki Yoshino said of the timing of Honda's return to the sport it quit in 1992 after 10 years as an engine supplier.

"But since we do not have so much experience in the chassis area, we are now studying how best we can develop and manufacture a racing chassis for Formula One racing," he told a news conference.

Yoshino added that Honda is expected to complete testing on two F1 prototypes "in a month or so."

"We'd like to see what kind of performance these test cars will show. So it will not be so long before we announce officially the comeback date."

The world-renowned car and motorcycle maker, celebrating its 50th anniversary, announced in March it would come back to F1 racing as a full constructor and team.

Honda last had its own F1 racing team from 1964 to 1968. The induction was painful with only two wins out of 35 races and tragedy striking in the final year.

In the 1968 French Grand Prix, Frenchman Jo Schlesser was burned to death when his untuned V8 Honda overruled and burst into flames, with magnesium in the chassis feeding the flames.

The company, under founder Soichiro Honda, came back as an engine supplier in 1984 and powered Williams and McLaren to constructors titles from 1986 to 1991, helping the late Brazilian Ayrton Senna among other star racers.

But, faced with slumping sales and the need to put resources into clean and safe cars, Honda ended its \$100 million a year F1 commitment in 1992.

The company has kept its links with F1 as its affiliate Mugen continued supplying Honda-based engines to F1 teams, most recently Jordan.

"Without the challenge of racing competition, we never could have developed the technologies which make Honda engines the most fuel efficient and clean in the world," Yoshino said.

The first prototype was reportedly designed by Italian racing outfit Dallara under respected British designer Harvey Postlethwaite.

Yoshino, who took over from Nobuhiko Kawamoto as Honda's chief executive officer this year, was noncommittal when asked about Honda's goals in F1 racing.

"We would first like to see our test machine's performance and then we will know how much difficulty we face," he said. "We have not yet established any concrete objective."

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## Jordan welcomes accord

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan on Friday hailed the Palestinian-Israeli agreement which was signed at the White House earlier in the day and paid tribute to all those who contributed to its conclusion.

Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh, in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, offered congratulations to the Palestinian people over "this important achievement... and the extraordinary performance of the Palestinian leadership in the negotiations."

Also congratulating the Israeli people and government, Tarawneh stressed that the

agreement was important to all countries in the region.

The prime minister paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein's efforts in helping conclude the agreement, saying these efforts manifested the King's continued commitment to achieving peace.

"The whole world is looking at the King's role with great admiration and esteem. Jordanians, as they have always been, are proud of the King's status and achievements... and implore God to protect King Hussein and pray for his safe return home," Tarawneh said.

The premier also praised

U.S. President Bill Clinton's efforts in reaching the agreement, which, he said, has helped put the peace process back on track and has paved the way for starting final status negotiations.

He expressed hope that the agreement would help the Palestinians deepen relations with Jordan in various fields and remove obstacles that stand in the way of improving ties, especially in economic fields.

Tarawneh also voiced hope that the agreement would prompt the revival of negotiations on the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese tracks of the Mideast peace process.

## Israeli right blasts accord, vows to topple Netanyahu

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli right-wingers blasted on Friday a "betrayal" of a U.S.-mediated peace deal with the Palestinians, saying it could lead to more bloodshed, as Jewish settlers said they will shut down the West Bank with street protests and try to topple Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

But Israeli President Ezer Weizman, a frequent critic of the slow pace of peacemaking with the Palestinians, called the accord "good for Israel and the majority of the country."

Shlomo Filber, a leader of the Jewish settlement movement, said that on Sunday, protesters were to block every West Bank junction to Palestinian traffic. The settlers will also work to bring down the Netanyahu coalition, Filber said.

At least a dozen hardline coalition members have said they would vote against a peace agreement in parliament, enough to rob the prime minister of his parliamentary majority.

However, the dovish opposition said it would counter those votes and make sure Netanyahu will remain in power until the

troop withdrawal has been carried out.

"We will give him a safety net for the coming weeks," said Yossi Beilin of the opposition Labour Party, one of the architects of the 1993 breakthrough agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

"The agreement in Washington is a betrayal of the ideal and people who sent Netanyahu to [the summit] to protect the land of Israel," Aharon Domb, a spokesman for Jewish settlers, said on Israel Radio.

In a subsequent statement Domb apologized for using the word betrayal, a politically charged term in Israel where opponents of peace moves by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin frequently called him a traitor in the months leading up to his assassination.

Rabin was shot dead in 1995 by a right-wing religious Jew opposed to ceding land to Palestinians.

Jewish settlers and ultra nationalist Israelis stake a biblical claim to the West Bank, occupied by Israel since the 1967 Middle East war. Settler leaders have threatened a massive protest campaign against handing more land to the Palestinians.

Asked about the agreement, Weizman told reporters: "We live in a democracy in which the majority, not the minority, decides. It is good for the people of Israel." However, Michael Kleiner, a far-right legislator from the Geshur Party and head of the Land of Israel Front in parliament, said the accord would lead to violence.

"This is an agreement which is delaying peace and brings us closer to a military clash with the Palestinians," he told Reuters.

Kleiner reiterated a long standing threat to topple Netanyahu if the Israeli cabinet approved the deal. Netanyahu heads a coalition government of right-wing, religious and immigrants' parties hanging onto power by a 61-59 majority in the 120-seat parliament.

"This is a very sad moment for the state of Israel. It may be compared historically with the Munich agreements, between Hitler and Chamberlain," Kleiner told Reuters.



President Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (R) and President Yasser Arafat (L) applaud His Majesty King Hussein before a signing ceremony at the White House on Friday. Israeli, Palestinian and U.S. leaders crowned a nine-day peace summit by reaching an agreement for Israeli withdrawal from West Bank land in return for Palestinian security measures, after clearing a last-minute snag over an American who spied for Israel (Reuters photo)

## Palestinian opposition warns of violence after 'humiliating' accord

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Palestinian opposition groups warned Friday that the "humiliating" peace agreement expected to be signed by Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) will lead to a renewed wave of violence and even civil war.

"We call on the Palestinian opposition to reject this humiliating accord," said Nayef Hawatmeh, secretary general of the Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

"We warn of the violent and negative consequences of this agreement," he said in a statement.

The peace accord under negotiation calls for a further

Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank in exchange for tougher action by the Palestinians against anti-Israeli activists.

But Hawatmeh said the accord only fights "so-called terrorism" while fully-armed Israeli settlers can freely threaten and attack Palestinian lives.

The Islamic Jihad also suggested that Palestinian civil war would be the likely outcome of any peace agreement.

"We reject the Oslo accord and the Washington accord because they signify yet more [Israeli] occupation and American control," said one of the roughly 2,000 demonstrators at an Islamic Jihad rally in the Gaza Strip town of Rafah.

A peace agreement with the Israelis "will lead to a Palestinian civil war," he warned.

The rally was held to mark the slaying of former Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shikaki, who was assassinated three years ago in Malta by the Israeli secret service.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) also denounced the proposed peace deal, saying it would "turn the Palestinian cause for self-determination into a security plan for Israel."

"The basis of the accord is the security of Israel which the PNA vowed to guarantee by striking the national and Islamist opposition movements," PFLP spokesman

Maher Taher told AFP. "They want to turn the PNA into a police force for Israel... against the opposition movements who are determined to continue the armed struggle to eradicate the Israeli occupation," he said.

Taher said the agreement was "even more humiliating because it calls for amending our Palestinian covenant. The deal includes the cancellation of anti-Israel clauses in the covenant."

"We call on all opposition groups to rally and work together to reject this accord... and all previous agreements... because all the Israelis are trying to do is to push the Palestinians into a civil war," he said.

## Government initials agreement to sell 33% of Jordan Cement Factories Co. to Lafarge

By Ghadeer Taher

AMMAN — In what would be the country's first privatisation success story, the government and French cement giant Lafarge Friday wrapped up a JD 72 million deal for a 33 per cent stake in the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC).

The government, which owns 49.3 per cent of the country's sole cement producer, initiated an agreement with Lafarge to sell 20 million of its shares to the French firm at JD 3.6 a share, a premium of 100 per cent of the share's closing price of JD 1.8, officials said.

The deal will provide JCFC with new technology and marketing skills, as well as bringing in desperately needed foreign investment to help resuscitate a stagnant economy.

"The sale is the one of the most important privatisation deals in emerging markets in 1998," a lead-

ing international investment banker said. "At JD 3.6, the company is valued at over 20 times its profits, which is substantially higher than the valuations of all publicly traded emerging market cement companies," he added. The company recorded JD 11.9 million net profit in 1997.

But even before the deal was concluded, a majority bloc of parliamentary deputies, opposed to privatisation of major state assets, urged the government to abandon plans to sell its share in the profit-making cement and telecommunications firms.

The lawmakers, opposed to the sales to strategic partners, made their demands in a letter, signed Thursday by a few members of the 53-member parliamentary coalition.

"At face value, the deal does not contradict the recommendations of the Finance and Economic Committee adopted by the House

opposing a sale to a strategic partner," said Head of House Finance and Economic Committee Ali Abul Ragheb.

"The details so far indicate that the new shareholder would be like other shareholders and will not enjoy any privileges giving it power to overrule the board's majority decisions," said Abul Ragheb, noting that details of the deal will be verified at the committee's next meeting scheduled on Tuesday.

But critics, fearing that the government is relinquishing control to foreigners in the key mining sector, said Lafarge, now the largest single shareholder in the company and with the ability to buy more shares in the market, could eventually gain control of the firm's decision-making body.

But other sources, say Lafarge could only buy another eight per cent of the JCFC's shares because foreign ownership in the mining

sector is restricted by law to 49 per cent. Foreigners already have an eight per cent stake in the firm.

Last week, trading of the company's shares at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) was suspended in preparation for the sale.

The Egyptian Investment Bank EFG Hermes, acting as the financial advisor to the transaction, had recommended to the government to initiate negotiations with Lafarge on the sale of a 33 per cent equity stake.

After the recommendation, a government committee headed by Finance Minister Michel Maro, and including JCFC Board Chairman Harazi Tabbaa, was entrusted with studying the details of the offer and negotiating its terms, according to an official statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The government statement issued Friday stated that the committee was able to conclude the deal after

several negotiating sessions and would recommend to the cabinet it approve the sale.

According to the statement, the government will allocate some of its remaining shares in the company to JCFC employees at a discount of the Lafarge sale price while another portion of its shares would be sold to the Jordanian public.

Under the terms of the deal, Lafarge cannot sell its shares for 10 years and if it does, the government will have the right of first refusal on the sale of the shares, one official said.

The company is among the major firms the government had set to privatise and is seen as a test case for Jordan's programme to open its economy to foreign investment.

The controversial sale of a 40 per cent stake in the state-owned Jordan Telecommunications Corporation has not yet taken off and has been marred by contradictory statements

by the government and firm's newly-appointed chairman, Ali Shukri.

Investment analysts predict that the Lafarge transaction, the largest equity deal in Jordan's history, could lead to an upsurge in share prices of other companies in the depressed stock market.

The sale, analysts said, would also have a positive impact on foreign investment in the country by restoring sagging international credibility resulting from last summer's discrepancy in the Kingdom's economic growth figures as well as protracted political infighting on the merits and mechanism of privatising state enterprises.

"This is a good deal for the JCFC because it will bring in new expertise and marketing skills to the company without giving Lafarge an upper hand in the management structure or any veto power," said Tabbaa. (See related story on privatisation on page 8)

## Kurdish prisoners commit fiery suicide

DIYARBAKIR (R) — Four Kurdish rebels in Turkish jails died and six were seriously injured when they set themselves on fire on Friday in a show of loyalty to their leader, a prison official said.

The rebels, incarcerated in a number of prisons, set themselves alight to demonstrate their loyalty to Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) leader Abdullah Ocalan, banned from neighbouring Syria under a recent Turkish-Syrian agreement.

The surviving rebels were taken to hospital for treatment, the prison official said. The Kurdish news agency DEM said Ocalan had urged the prisoners to stop their action.

The inmates' coordinated self-immolation coincided with intensified activity by the Turkish military against Kurdish rebels in southeast Turkey in which the security forces said they had killed 69 PKK guerrillas for the loss of 10 government troops.

The two-day operation by some 10,000 Turkish troops and militiamen in the rugged

southeast, where the PKK is fighting for autonomy, follows a landmark agreement with Syria on the denial of bases and support for the Kurdish guerrillas.

The powerful Turkish military last month threatened military action unless Syria stopped its backing for the PKK and refused hospitality to Ocalan.

Damascus, while denying that it had given the PKK and its leader sanctuary, ended the row after two days of secret talks earlier this week by stating that the PKK was illegal and was not allowed to carry out any activities inside Syria.

The Turks immediately launched a new drive in mountainous territory between the eastern provinces of Van and Sirnak. "We are aiming to completely wipe out the terrorists, who are trying to recover," a security official based in the southeastern capital of Diyarbakir told Reuters.

"Following the latest developments, the terrorist organisation is in a state of confusion," he said.

## U.N. official withdrawn from Iraq for taking photos

BAGHDAD (AP) — The United Nations has withdrawn a Chilean pilot from Iraq for taking photographs in the second such move in two weeks, the chief U.N. weapons inspector in Iraq said Friday.

Nils Cadstrom said the Chilean authorities wanted to withdraw the pilot after Iraq accused him of spying and Richard Butler, the head of the U.N. Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament, had accepted the request.

The pilot had used his own camera to photograph sensitive material in breach of the commission's rules, Cadstrom said.

The Chilean will leave Iraq on the next available U.N. flight. Cadstrom said, declining to identify him.

U.N. weapons inspectors rely on five Chilean helicopters and their 40-member crew for their travel in Iraq and aerial surveillance of weapons sites.

Last week Butler ordered Carl Pfluger, an American inspector, to leave the country for taking pictures with his own camera of a missile site close to Baghdad.

Iraqi newspapers reported the withdrawal of Pfluger with glee Friday.

"UNSCOM withdraws one of its spies (Pfluger) from Iraq," trumpeted the official newspaper Al Iraq.

Iraq has repeatedly accused the U.N. weapons inspectors of espionage and since Aug. 5 has blocked surprise inspections by the experts, who are charged with supervising the elimination of its weapons of mass destruction.

But Cadstrom said the withdrawal of the Chilean and the American should not be interpreted as admission that the commission was involved in espionage.

"The pilot's withdrawal is not due to the wrongful allegations of espionage, but to the

fact that he violated UNSCOM's own rules regarding the non-use of personal cameras on inspections."

Both the pilot and Pfluger would be dismissed from the commission, Cadstrom added.

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## Drivers on medication more likely to have accidents

LONDON (AP) — Drivers taking commonly prescribed anti-anxiety drugs such as valium during the day are more than twice as likely to be involved in traffic accidents as those not taking the drugs, according to a new study. The risk of accidents for people under the age of 45 is more than three times greater if taking the drugs, according to the study published in Friday's edition of The Lancet, a British medical journal. Thousands of lives could be saved worldwide every year and hundreds of thousands of traffic accidents avoided if people who use such drugs did not drive while on medication, the researchers said.

## Phoney priest on the run

LA PAZ (AFP) — Bolivian police are on the hunt for a phoney priest called Padre Francisco who has robbed a convent and swindled money from hundreds of people, church officials said Thursday. The cleric, in clerical robes, the man has conned hundreds into giving him their church contributions — which went straight into his own pockets — according to Ricardo Ceotillas, archdiocese vicar-general in the southern Bolivian city of Sucre.

## Student suspended for hexing classmate

BALTIMORE (R) — A 15-year-old girl who claimed to be a witch was suspended from school this week after another girl accused her of high school freshman of casting a spell on her, officials said. Jamie Schoonover, who has been taunted by fellow classmates for her overt adherence to the neopagan Wicca religion, was sent home for the day after an incident that occurred outside Baltimore's Southwestern High School on Tuesday morning. The other girl, heard from a third student, said Schoonover had put a "hex" on her. She started crying and ran to school administrators, who later held a two-hour meeting with both girls and their families.

## Monkeys can count

WASHINGTON (R) — Monkeys can count, at least up to nine, researchers said. They said their study shows monkeys and other primates are more intelligent than they are usually given credit for, adding it erodes some established barriers that people often think make humans superior to animals. "This finding is important because it shows that monkeys know things about numbers that we haven't taught them," Elizabeth Brannon, a graduate student at New York's Columbia University, who worked on the study, said in a statement.

## Depardieu in trouble for drunk driving

PARIS (AFP) — Gerard Depardieu, darling of the French cinema, is in trouble, facing the loss of his prestigious Legion d'Honneur award because of a drunk driving conviction.

Khatami, shown on television casting his vote, sought to downplay the controversy while urging citizens to participate in the polling.

"The number of qualified people in our country is definitely more than this, but there is still a relative diversity of choices," he said. "If there are any problems, they can be solved through a debate among ourselves."

## Palestinian

PALESTINE (AFP) — Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), said Saturday that his people were "very soon" to be proclaimed independent.

Speaking after the European Union (EU) peace deal, he reiterated that the Oslo peace agreement was "a step towards the final status of the land."

He said he hoped to be able to sign the final peace agreement with Israel's consent.

"It is coming very soon," he said when asked when it would be signed.

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